

L Hero

Chapter 761 Negotiations

The waterdrop-shaped spaceship slowly entered the atmosphere and descended. The scene of fire and cracked lava jumped into Psyker's sight.

Psyker had already sensed the position of the Evolution Cube just below the planet, so close that he could accurately sense its position now.

"The coordinates have stopped at this planet for a few hours now... Did he give up on the Evolution Cube and choose to escape, or did he purposely stay here just to meet with me?"

Psyker tried to guess the intentions of his unknown enemy and felt that the person might have set traps for him, causing him to be unable to continue pursuing him. As a precaution, he gave up the thought of flying down using just his fleshly body, instead flying over to the coordinates he detected in his spaceship.

After flying for a while, the detection radar suddenly pinged as it had spotted a life signal hundreds of kilometers away. The distant area was expanded, and it could be discerned that there were hundreds of Mechanical Warriors around a living body, as though keeping it in captivity.

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"That looks like Sardeem." Psyker's expression grew grim, and he immediately flew over to Sardeem.

The troops on the ground raised their muzzles, opening fire at the spaceship overhead.

Boom boom boom!

A surge of invisible mental power formed a shield, distorting the space like a wall of air. The Particle Cannon blasted shattered into blue specks of light upon hitting them.

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Explosions continued to move, but the shield remained motionless.

The next instant, a pale white mental shock wave materialized, sweeping across the ground.

Swoosh!

The hundreds of Mechanical soldiers below did not possess the bonuses of Mechanical Force and were naturally shattered in a single blow. The mental wave avoided Sardeem, and he was the only one left standing after the shockwave had passed.

The Psychic profession was the profession specializing in mental strength. Its strength lay in its mental attacks, and at the same time, it possessed the means to perform physical attacks. The driving force behind this was using one's mental strength to affect the surroundings in order to generate the physical attack.

Psyker crushed the restraints on Sardeem's body with his mind before beaming him up into the cabin.

"Cough cough... you're finally here!"

Sardeem held onto the cabin door weakly with an expression of joy.

He was saved!

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A Beyond Grade A Super was so reliable. Believing in Psyker was the correct thing to do!

“Who’s the enemy?” Psyker did not waste time talking, going straight into the main topic.

“It... it’s Black Star!”

“Black Star? I’ve heard this name before... oh, it seems like someone from the Colton Star Cluster. He took part in the secret war and ended up provoking Tyrant.”

“Yes, yes, yes, it’s that Beyond Grade A Seed. He claimed to be invincible among Calamity Grades.”

Invincible among Calamity Grades? So, is it his moniker that gave him the confidence to go against a Beyond Grade A?

Psyker shook his head. The Colton Star Cluster was far away from his Star Pupil Holy Race, and while news about Han Xiao had passed through him, he did not pay attention to him. To him, a simple Calamity Grade was just an ant no matter how famous he was.

He had no interest in the secret war. If he had the time, he would have spent it worrying about the fertility problem of the Star Pupil Holy Race.

“Your Excellency Psyker, Black Star threw me over here a few hours ago. He should still be on this planet. Just now, when you wiped out the mechanical soldiers, you revealed yourself. I believe we should hurry to capture Black Star, lest he runs away again.”

Sardeem immediately raised that suggestion. He could not wait to see Black Star get into trouble.

He could not forget the humiliation that he had suffered and wished to take back his mechanical troops. Psyker was his backer, and in his eyes, a Calamity Grade would never be a match for a Beyond Grade A. No matter how Black Star struggled, he would only become a punching bag for Psyker.

Sardeem gritted his teeth, viciously thinking, I’m not only going to get back my mechanical army, I’m even going to steal yours!

“Oh, that makes sense. We should settle it quickly,” Psyker said as though it was natural.

With his perception pointing the way, he was not afraid of Black Star running away but rather more afraid that if Black Star had nowhere left to run, he would smash the portable container of the Evolution Cube to pieces, revealing the true form of the Evolution Cube. In that case, he would have to gather all the manpower of his Star Pupil Holy Race to move the Evolution Cube back, and he hated such trouble.

Just as he was prepared to pilot his spaceship over, he felt the Evolution Cube in his perception begin to approach them. Very quickly, a tiny black dot grew ever larger toward their location.

Rumble!

The fast-moving shadow shot over the ground, raising up gales, and the magma flowing on the surface was split to the sides due to the wind pressure.

The next moment, the black shadow stopped in midair not far off, facing squarely with Psyker.

“That’s Black Star!” Sardeem immediately pointed as he exclaimed.

“To think he came knocking on his own...” Psyker felt a little mystified. He roughly understood the intentions of the other party—to negotiate with him.

His gaze was fixed on the small Evolution Cube hanging from Han Xiao’s neck. With his perception, he knew that this was the compact version of the Portable Evolution Cube.

Hum!

Without waiting for Han Xiao to open his mouth, Psyker raised his hand, and a blast of psychic power roiled out, hitting Han Xiao on a spiritual level.

He was too lazy to speak pleasantries to Han Xiao. He knew that the other party planned to use the Evolution Cube as his bargaining chip, but what qualifications did Han Xiao, as a Calamity Grade, have to speak on equal grounds with him?

Psyker was unwilling to give him the upper hand. Thus, without a single word, he attacked directly.

If you have anything to say, wait till I get the Evolution Cube!

Before Han Xiao could speak, a wave of mental energy struck at him. Fortunately, he had been mentally prepared to use his new talent [Void Dimension] from the [Chaos Apostle] race, drawing a large amount of power from the void to offset the psychic energies. The barrier he created diffused close to half the mental damage.

The remaining amount of psychic energy pierced through, invading his brain, and he felt pain in his mind as though countless nails were being hammered in. However, his talents such as [Supreme Piety], [Advanced Mental Toughness], and [Soul Lock] had more than doubled his mental resistance. This blow shaved off more than 80,000 of his overall HP, with the interface showing that Psyker had utilized his skills to deal extra damage.

This was the true strength of a Beyond Grade A Super!

However, with Han Xiao’s current HP, this attack that was enough to destroy Calamity Grades did not even count as a light injury to him, and he recovered in the blink of an eye.

This jerk is really decisive! Han Xiao turned solemn.

However, this was what he wanted. Only by first showing his strength to the other party would he be qualified to negotiate on equal grounds.

While his thoughts moved, Han Xiao’s hands did not slow down as well. Without a second word, he immediately applied the Luck Curse on Psyker, and without retreating, he activated [Apostilization] as well as [Void Blessing]. With an arrogant bearing, a sea of Psionic energy was launched, akin to a river of stars in a galaxy as it rushed toward Psyker’s spaceship.

Boom!

The surge of Psionic energy violently smashed against Psyker's mind barrier, akin to a waterfall against a rock. The light blue colored sparkles resembled the splashing of water, and the surroundings vibrated endlessly, with roaring echoes.

"This strength... isn't quite right."

Psyker could not help but be surprised. The pressure withstood by his spirit was totally different from his original expectation of easily blocking the attack.

While there was only a bit of pressure, having been a Beyond Grade A for so many years, this was the first time that he had felt pressure coming from a Calamity Grade.

Clank!

The next instant, Han Xiao poured out more energy, summoning his Mechanical army. Flashes could be seen around the sky as the Army Boxes arrived one after another, releasing an overwhelming number of Mechanical troops. A black colored wave of soldiers occupied every inch of the sky.

Not only was Han Xiao's mechanical army there but Sardeem's too. The total scale was over ten million.

Buzz!

Mechanical Force resembling sparks of electricity rushed out from Han Xiao, connecting to each mechanical soldier like a ginormous lightning web. At this moment, all the Mechanical soldiers' actions were synchronized.

Han Xiao then released his full strength. The level of energy that he emitted sharply climbed, and his momentum continued to expand.

It was at this moment that Sardeem had a bad premonition in his heart.

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Right on cue, Psyker opened his mouth.

"You're wrong."

Sardeem regained his senses and replied in confusion, "What's wrong?"

"You said he was a Beyond Grade A Seed. You're wrong."

Sardeem could not help but turn to Psyker, and to his shock, he found out that Psyker's expression was no longer easygoing. At some time, his expression had turned stern.

"He's not a Beyond Grade A Seed..." Psyker's tone was grave. "He's a true Beyond Grade A!"

Like a bolt of lightning blasting apart his mind, Sardeem's thoughts turned blank. His whole body stiffened, and his eyes slowly grew larger, as his expression turned from disbelieving to terrified.

Black Star... was a Beyond Grade A?

This meant that the Shattered Star Ring now had five Beyond Grade A Supers?

Sardeem's face was pale. If Han Xiao was still a Calamity Grade, he would have had no issues making him an enemy. However, the other party was now a Beyond Grade A. What sort of revenge would he dare perform?

When did this happen? Two days ago, when I was exchanging blows with him, he was still a Calamity Grade! Could it be that he purposely hid his strength?

Maybe, when he had disguised himself as Barne, he was already a Beyond Grade A.

Then, has he been fooling me all along?

Seeing that he was so vocal about managing to have a contact with a Beyond Grade A, Sardeem now felt utterly speechless.

If Black Star and Psyker start fighting, the aftermath of a Beyond Grade A battle...

Sardeem now started to panic. He had thought that once Psyker arrived, he would be safe, but now it seems like he would die there!

At this time, the mechanical army surrounded Psyker's spaceship, and dense rows of muzzles aimed at him. At the same time, the dim glow of accumulating energy could be seen.

Hum!

Psyker's seven eyes immediately grew huge, and his psychic energy was poured out, weaving layer after layer of barriers that wrapped around the entire spaceship.

"Fire!" Han Xiao pressed down sharply with his palm.

Pew! Pew! Pew!

Millions of particle cannons were fired in unison toward the same target, and the next moment, the various psionic rays converged at a single point, triggering a chain reaction. At the center point, a dark-blue energy ball was formed and quickly expanded.

The Mechanical army retreated as this energy ball swelled to more than a hundred kilometers in diameter before exploding!

Boom!

The sound was akin to a mountain collapsing.

A dazzling blue beam shot up toward the sky, heading for the atmosphere.

Without dust nor a mushroom cloud, all the Psionic energy vanished as though it had never existed.

The area was transformed into a deep pit, with the land seemingly having vanished into thin air. This explosion almost blew through the crust of the planet, and the remaining power had penetrated the mantle, causing it to turn into a bottomless hole.

Rumble!

The veins in the surrounding thousands of kilometers had all been affected, with several earthquakes happening simultaneously. All the volcanoes in the area erupted, and the cracked ground produced countless deep rifts. The crust was shredded by the tectonic movements, and magma raged from the rifts, rising like red hot dragon ridges.

Seeing the extreme changes, Han Xiao could only sigh in appreciation.

Just how many times has my offensive strength multiplied?

His Attributes and Machinery Affinity had soared, and the bonuses given by [Supreme Prestige] allowed Han Xiao's strength to step into the realm of Beyond Grade A.

My Mechanical army has not yet been renewed. The moment I return and create a set of stronger machines, as well as a large number of Planetary Obliteration Cannons, that will be the peak of my combat capability.

Han Xiao settled his mind before turning around to look for traces of Psyker.

While the picture of devastation that he had wrought was shocking, Han Xiao never let his guard down. He would not expect such a blow to pose much of a threat to another Beyond Grade A. After all, the strong aftermath meant that his control of power was still not precise and concentrated.

Even with that huge explosion, the damage inflicted was only 250,000 HP. This was already inferred on his interface, and the majority of his attacks were stopped by the Beyond Grade A Psychic mental barrier.

In the epicenter of the explosion, there was a cracked light sphere, red in color. That was the psychic barrier of Psyker. Even his mental and psychic energies had been superheated by the Psionic blast, turning into lava red and constantly emitting steam.

The mechanical army gathered once again, and upon seeing this, Psyker glanced at Sardeem, who was trembling beside him, and shook his head.

After staying silent for a while, he dissipated his mental barrier, opened the hatch, and flew out, facing Han Xiao.

"Good strength."

Psyker first lowered his head to start at the bottomless pit before turning back to face Han Xiao. He did not reveal any emotions on his face as he said, "Let's talk."

After this simple exchange, Psyker understood that the other party was on the same level as him. Thus, he could only change his attitude and acknowledge that Han Xiao was qualified for equal conversation.

While he had never made any contact with Black Star before, he would have no choice but to remember this person in the future.

Making this gesture also showed that he was ready to negotiate with Han Xiao.

In fact, Psyker was a little pissed. He had originally thought that his opponent was just a Calamity Grade that was too full of himself, but it turned out to be a real Beyond Grade A Super. The worst-case scenario actually happened, and this made the situation even more complicated.

Psyker was not afraid of Han Xiao, but as the leader of a civilization, he was not willing to easily provoke a new Beyond Grade A as his enemy unless there was no hope of negotiating.

As the saying went, whenever talented people emerged, they would leave their mark on the world. Every new Beyond Grade A expert signified some sort of change in the Star Field. While the Shattered Star Ring had not had a new Beyond Grade A expert for a long time, it did not mean that the same went for many of the other Star Fields.

With Psyker's long lifespan, alongside with his contacts in the Arcane Church, he could follow the news beyond the Shattered Star Ring. He was well read, so he did not lose his composure, but upon witnessing the birth of yet another Beyond Grade A, it was unavoidable that he would be surprised. He just chose not to show it so as not to affect the negotiations.

Seeing this situation, Han Xiao bade his mechanical army to stop before flying in front of Psyker.

The two stood opposite each other, sizing the other party up.

"State your conditions. What do you wish to do with my Evolution Cube?"

Psyker took the initiative to speak. He did not wish to speak in riddles and immediately approached the main topic.

Han Xiao raised his brow.

This guy's personality is really direct, probably not too good at talking...

However, that made sense. Their exchange just now was merely a simple blow, exchanging shots to prove their strength. It was far from what a Beyond Grade A Super could do.

Psyker was willing to communicate mainly because Han Xiao had proven this strength and because it was impossible to eliminate him in a single blow.

Han Xiao's mind was full of nasty words, but he thought about it and spoke solemnly whilst holding onto the Evolution Cube around his neck. "Actually, there's a way for us to cooperate."

"Speak." Psyker remained expressionless.

Han Xiao nodded before explaining the need for a password to crack the Evolution Cube in its portable form. Following which, he said, "I know how to unlock this Evolution Cube, so I can allow it to maintain this portable state and carry it around with me, so it won't be stolen. As for you, since you do not know the password, you can only release its original form, and one day, it might be stolen by the EsGod again, leading to many deaths.

"Thus, I propose that I hold on to the Evolution Cube. Let me divert their attention. You can borrow the Evolution Cube whenever you wish, and both of our forces will also be closely allied to each other, so you do not have to worry about it being stolen and still can continue to utilize its strength. It's a win-win."

Psyker patiently listened before passively saying, “Ah, then I’ll also propose something. How about you give the password and the Evolution Cube to me? The Star Pupil Holy Race will be your closest allies, and you can always use the Evolution Cube anytime you wish. Furthermore, I’ll help you to get rid of the Tyrant. How about that?”

Han Xiao’s eyes twitched. “And if I don’t agree...”

“Then I’ll help the Tyrant get rid of you.” Psyker interrupted Han Xiao without hesitation, pressuring him. “Now, give me your reply. Will you hand it over?”

Chapter 762 Apologies, I Won’t Let You Support My Ass

“Is that a threat?” Han Xiao was mystified. This was really too direct.

“No, I’m just helping you understand your current situation.” Psyker’s tone remained calm yet steely.

With them both being Beyond Grade A Supers who wielded immense strength, the laws of the various civilizations had already lost their purpose in front of them. Beyond Grade A Supers were the class that represented prestige, and they had already stepped out of the rules of society. Thus, any nonsense from Psyker was useless, and he chose to immediately strike his opponent’s weak points. This was more useful than exchanging a lot of bullcr*p pleasantries.

As for Black Star’s current situation, Psyker was not too aware, but he knew that the Tyrant had set his sights on him. Thus, no matter whom he joined, the balance would be broken.

What he was betting on was that Black Star, as a new Beyond Grade A, would choose stability as a priority. He still had to accumulate his strength and influence, splitting apart the benefits in the Star Field as he had just risen to Beyond Grade A. Thus, facing the threat of two older Beyond Grade As, he would likely choose to compromise.

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The Star Pupil Holy Race’s genes were already almost optimized to the bottleneck. The function of the Evolution Cube had no use for them, and what Psyker needed was to use its value—to trade it with the Arcane Church in exchange for its support.

Over the past few decades, the Arcane Church had repeatedly proposed generous conditions in exchange for the Evolution Cube, and their latest bid proposed that they would support the Star Pupil Holy Race into becoming the designated spokesperson of the Arcane Church in the Shattered Star Ring, allowing it to become a true Star Cluster civilization. This promise moved Psyker.

However, his bargaining chip was then stolen.

As such, it did not really matter if the Evolution Cube was portable or not. Han Xiao’s conditions were not attractive in his eyes, as he did not need to borrow it but rather needed the Evolution Cube itself.

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No matter what, the Evolution Cube had to be returned to his hands, or else he would lose the support of the Arcane Church. After all, without the Evolution Cube, there was no need to discuss anything else!

Han Xiao thought a little and could understand Psyker's rationale as well as his bottom line. The other party could not compromise, which gave him a headache.

This little comrade refused to perform the win-win cooperation and only wished to take back the Evolution Cube. He could not fulfill Psyker's wishes in any way.

Threatening another's race would do more harm than benefit as well. All galactic civilizations were covered under the Civilization Treaty but not mercenary groups. This was the difference in the nature of their organizations. It would be okay for others to hit him, but he himself could not attack other civilizations. This was how sad and pathetic the life of a mercenary was.

Psyker cared about his own race, and this was a well-known weakness of this. But if he gave in every time someone threatened him with his race, the Star Pupil Holy Race would not have reached this current stage. One could even say that Psyker had received threats his entire life, leading to his tough stance in dealing with problems. Unless Han Xiao decided to abandon his Black Star Army and turn into a wanted man in the galaxy, like EsGod, he would not use the Star Pupil Holy Race to threaten him.

However, he knew of this point and is not willing to use the Black Star Army to threaten me. This means that he still has some morals left and is not willing to force me into a corner.

Han Xiao's heart was moved.

The focus of this competition was for the Evolution Cube, and both parties had some sort of restraining fear. In order to avoid the losses of both, they had not mentioned their respective forces.

However, Han Xiao was unwilling to hand the cube over to Psyker so easily. For most civilizations, the Evolution Cube was an unprecedented opportunity for development, and no civilization would be able to reject this opportunity. If he controlled the Evolution Cube by himself, it will form a huge collective of interests, and the Black Star Army's influences would soar hundreds of thousands of times higher than it currently was.

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Taking a step back, with his identity as a Beyond Grade A, if he took the Evolution Cube to work together with the Crimson Dynasty, he would be able to obtain the support of a Universal Civilization. The Star Pupil Holy Race obviously enjoyed such a benefit from the Arcane Church, and they would also be able to join in the forces for early exploration to the Flickering World, laying the groundwork for future versions.

At the same time, the Evolution Cube would still be able to attract countless Calamity Grades and maybe even Beyond Grade As. That was not impossible.

He was not someone like Psyker who only had his own race in mind, keeping all the good stuff only for his race to utilize.

There was only one Evolution Cube, so the benefits were huge. He did not have a chance before, so that was it. However, this opportunity had been presented to him, and he had the strength to keep the treasure. If he gave it up too easily, it would be letting himself down.

When it was time to fight, Han Xiao would never retreat.

Taking the Evolution Cube for himself would give the best benefits, accompanied by the same amount of risks. However, with his body and Aurora's medicine, even if the Tyrant and Psyker joined forces, they might not be able to kill him. His forces would be able to improve even further without any threat, as the supporting ability of the Evolution Cube was top-class. However, if he gave the cube back to Psyker, while there would be no danger, he would have given up a lot of benefits, only being able to obtain the scraps once they had been distributed.

This was the choice of wanting a single tree or taking the entire forest!

Han Xiao no longer thought about it and asked, "Is there no room for compromise at all?"

"If a civilization wishes to develop, it is inevitable that they fight for resources, for the future," Psyker blandly said. "Since ancient times, no matter how advanced or backward a civilization is, you cannot escape this rule, and you cannot fight it. In the end, if you don't follow these rules, you'll be eliminated. I believe you've heard the saying 'a civilization without ambition has no future'."

He would not say things like the Evolution Cube belonged to him and that he should get it back, as they were both standing at the pinnacle of individual strengths. It was useless to reason. In essence, the Evolution Cube was ownerless, but the other influences considered it his only because he had held it for a long time.

If it was something that the Star Pupil Holy Race had created, Han Xiao would probably have handed it over. However, this treasure did not belong to Psyker, and even if the other party wished to use it for righteous causes such as upgrading his own race, this universe was not only made up of the Star Pupil Holy Race. Resources were obtained by fighting, so why did others have to make way for him? The Star Pupil Holy Race was an intelligent civilization but so were others!

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Psyker occupying the Evolution Cube and transforming his race would make him regarded as a hero by his people but a selfish enemy by others. The judgement of one's position was purely based on their perspective, especially in Galaxy where relationships were complex. The development of a civilization had long been a process of sailing against the flow.

In Han Xiao's view, the Star Pupil Holy Race had already enjoyed the benefits of the Evolution Cube. Even if they lost it, the Star Pupil Holy Race would still be a strong civilization. Psyker only grabbed onto this benefit and did not wish to let go because he was not satisfied with the status quo, wishing to take his civilization to a higher level.

"A civilization without ambition has no future. This sentence makes sense. You, as the leader of a civilization, indeed have to place the burdens of the entire civilization on your back. It's just that..." Han Xiao sighed. "I don't intend to pay the bill for your ambition."

Psyker paused before his tone got even more severe. "Have you thought it through?"

"There's only one Evolution Cube. Neither of us wish to let it go, and there's no way to reconcile, so there's nothing left to say." Han Xiao shook his head. He had never been a good person who would turn his head away from money. After weighing the cost and benefits, he came to this decision.

"Good, I hope you don't regret this decision!"

Psyker suddenly moved, and boundless psychic energy in the form of shock waves burst out, distorting the air as they attacked the mechanical army behind, directly penetrating the formation.

Boom!

Thousands of fireworks exploded in the mechanical army, and the broken parts flew all over the sky. Nearly a hundred thousand mechanical soldiers were severely damaged, and their bodies were broken. Some were even directly scrapped.

Those mechanical soldiers constructed at the Calamity Grade were indeed too brittle before a Beyond Grade A, even with the Mechanical Force bonus...

“Spread the formation!” Han Xiao ordered the battle Artificial intelligence from his mind, and his mechanical arm changed its shape to form a spiral drill entwined with psionic energy as it thrust toward Psyker.

Psyker hand eye coordination was swift, and he quickly gripped the drill.

Buzz buzz...

The drill in Psyker’s hands spun rapidly, and his palms were covered with a psychic shield that was in contact with the drill. Sparks were constantly being emitted from the friction between the two. Psyker’s eyes gleamed at this moment.

Han Xiao felt a burst of pain in his mind as he was attacked in the spiritual state once again. Without waiting, Psyker released white light all over his body, and ripples of psychic energy spread rapidly, smashing into Han Xiao like a block. He was pushed back thousands of meters.

Immediately, Psyker’s hands clasped together strongly, and a loud blast of energy surged into the sky!

Han Xiao stabilized his body, and upon looking, he found that Psyker’s appearance had changed dramatically.

Psyker’s body had swollen to become a circle, and the two jade-like corners of his forehead had elongated. The small hair-like tentacles around his head merged to form a huge white tentacle, like a tail on his head. It waved around, seemingly extremely tensile, and three pairs of wings spread out from the vents around his body, turning him into an arthropod.

His seven eyes lit up with a dazzling white light, and the deep purple lines on his skin all lit up, exuding immense energies. Within the joints of his bone armor, sharp bone blades emerged, and a white cloud like psychic power was continuously released around his body.

Psyker had revealed his true combat form.

Han Xiao’s eyes narrowed. Not everyone would be willing to work with him, and since Psyker had rejected the support, he decided to keep his own ass and speak with his fists.

In the end, using their fists was still the most direct way to resolve any issues.

When negotiations failed, they could only persuade people in such a way.

I just spoke about flipping the table, and this guy really did so. What a fine temper... but don't think I'm afraid of you!

Boom!

Han Xiao no longer conserved himself and activated all his buff skills before exploding out with all his Mechanical Force.

Whoosh!

The Mechanical army lined up, firing toward Psyker, and the psionic rays from the Particle Cannons were akin to a sea of destruction.

Compared to the hasty confrontation previously, this was a real battle!

This was also the first Beyond Grade A battle that Han Xiao had personally taken part in!

Chapter 763 Intense Battle

Two figures, one white and one blue, collided like two meteors!

Boom!

The shockwave from their collision sent the densely packed mechanical soldiers flying in all directions!

The surging psionic energy in Han Xiao's body was unleashed without any restraint, and Han Xiao's fists hammered down heavily on Psyker's psychic shield, sending out intense shockwaves in all directions. Han Xiao did not retract his fists as his armor transformed into a gigantic hand cannon, with a burning red glow charging up in the barrel of the cannon.

Boom!

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Violent dark energy shot out from the barrel of the cannon and swallowed Psyker in a tower of light. However, Psyker remained unmoved like a rock within the tower of light.

Han Xiao frowned. This fellow's psychic shield is too powerful. The shield durability is far too high and he can easily generate another shield after the old shield is destroyed. Although he isn't able to ignore True Damage, my attacks would have to first hit him.

A Psychic's psychic shield was like a Mage's magic shield and even more powerful in certain areas. A Psychic's shield was able to defend against both physical and mental attacks, and Psyker was able to freely control the state of the shield. Since Han Xiao only had physical attacks, Psyker could reduce the strength of his mental shield by ninety percent and channel his energy to physical defense. As such, the shield was extremely durable.

Thankfully, Psyker's physique was not particularly strong, and he did not have any talents to ignore True Damage. Han Xiao could also trigger True Damage attacks on the shield to multiply his damage. However, damage done to the shield was not the same as damage done to Psyker.

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The Psychic branch was his nemesis, and the most direct solution would be to compete in firepower.

Boom!

The mechanical army got into formation and spread out in the sky, unleashing their never-ending fire down on Psyker. Particle Cannons, dark energy cannons, psionic cannons, and many other different weapons rained down on Psyker.

Including the Ice Age Star Freezing Cannon, more than ten satellite cannons shot into the sky, and thick beams of light smashed down on Psyker's shield.

At this moment, Psyker spread out his arms, and a white whirlpool of psychic energy burst forth from his body and sent Han Xiao flying.

The psychic shockwave swept all the mechanical soldiers near Psyker away, and these soldiers were all smashed into pieces.

Following which, Psyker's knees bent slightly, and he looked as though he was about to jump, treating the sky as flat ground.

Bang!

Psyker's body exploded forth, with every step producing a sonic boom as he charged straight into the mechanical army.

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The psychic energy surrounding his body began to spin rapidly, and Psyker seemed to have transformed into a drill. He weaved through the army with unstoppable momentum and released mental attacks while crashing through the army.

The formation of the mechanical army was immediately ripped into shreds with many soldiers being reduced to scrap metal.

The intense battle between the two continued and left giant craters on the planet that they were battling on. The planet's diameter was reduced by a few thousand meters; it was as though a layer was shed from the planet.

Han Xiao tried to approach Psyker to engage in a close combat fight, but Psyker refused to tangle with Han Xiao and focused all his attention on destroying Han Xiao's mechanical army. Whenever Han Xiao came close to Psyker, Psyker would use his psychic force to push Han Xiao back.

Psyker was extremely swift and his shield extremely thick. Many of Han Xiao's attacks were avoided by him, but a portion still managed to find their way to him.

A portion of Psyker's attributes were displayed on Han Xiao's interface. His level had a question mark, but his health was not as high as Han Xiao's. Psyker only had slightly more than 2,000,000 HP and had already lost a little more than 100,000 HP. Psyker's HP was recovering slowly, and he could recover 10,000 HP every second. His normal recovery rate was about 0.5% per second, but with his high total HP, the amount of HP that he could recover was not too low.

Han Xiao glanced at the interface and thought to himself, He doesn't have the Beyond Grade A talent [Everlasting Body] and should have chosen a talent related to energy.

Energy was the foundation of the Psychic class, and Psychics expanded energy extremely rapidly.

Upon seeing that the almost one million mechanical soldiers were destroyed, Han Xiao waved his arm, and his Mechanical Force stuck onto the spare parts like a spider web. All the spare parts gathered together, and Han Xiao combined the spare parts with his [Waste Modification] and [Basic Machinery Construction] skills before throwing them back into the fray.

His mechanical army was not too powerful, but he had many methods to repair his army in battle, and it would not be destroyed so easily. However, he did not have a relaxed expression on his face.

This fellow knows that I have not rebuilt my mechanical army yet and is treating my mechanical army as his breakthrough point. His energy is recovering too quickly, and it'll be difficult for me to fight a protracted battle with him.

He had lowered Psyker's HP by about 100,000, but he had lost about 700,000 HP in return. As Psyker destroyed his mechanical army, Psyker would occasionally send him a few Psychic Blasts or mental attacks. Even though Psyker suffered from the Luck Curse and had a decrease in critical rate, his normal damage was not low.

The Mechanic Class lacked skills that guarded against mental attacks, and he had no way to avoid the opponent's mental attacks.

However, his HP had already recovered to the maximum.

His [Middle Grade Cell Proliferation Control] talent converted energy to health with a 1:5 ratio. Because of the upper limit of his energy, he could regenerate 250,000 HP every second. Although the psychic attacks did not allow him to absorb energy, he could control the Watcher Instruments around him to attack him to regain his energy.

I'll be on the losing side if this continues, and I cannot allow him to attack my army without restraint.

Han Xiao's eyes narrowed, and a machine appeared beside him. This was a high-grade control type machinery that could use a powerful magnetic force to control the target.

A golden Mechanical Force shot out from his palm and struck the machine. This special bolt of Mechanical Force then merged together with the machine, and the stats of the machine were immediately multiplied.

Emperor's Gift!

The next moment, more than ten thick bolts of electricity exploded forth, and an intense magnetic force was released toward Psyker.

Hum!

Psyker, who was flying at high speed, suddenly stopped in midair as though he was grabbed by an invisible hand.

Without the boost from the Emperor's Gift, it would be impossible to catch Psyker.

The control duration was extremely short, and Han Xiao immediately entered the Void Dimension and appeared behind Psyker the very next moment, grabbing both of Psyker's arms.

His Mountain Ape mechanical suit then transformed into handcuffs to lock onto Psyker's body.

Buzz

Han Xiao activated his [Gene Liberation] skill, and the damage of his entire army was increased.

The next moment, the entire mechanical army fired at both of them!

Boom!

A new gigantic crater was left behind on the surface of the planet.

Han Xiao was sent flying far away and only managed to stabilize his body after travelling a few hundred kilometers. His first priority was to recover his HP before looking around for Psyker.

Psyker was also sent flying and was not in a good state.

At this moment, Psyker had a couple of burn marks all over his body. He had been obstructed by Han Xiao previously, and his psychic shield could not block the full force of the explosion. A small portion of his HP was lost during the blast, but he had various talents to guard his mind and would not be affected by a dizzy status or such.

Right at this moment, Han Xiao could feel a sense of danger approaching from behind him.

He hurriedly unleashed his psionic shield toward his back and saw a white, mist-like figure appearing behind him. As though the shield did not exist, the white figure went through the shield and into Han Xiao's body.

Hum!

Han Xiao could clearly feel this white figure entering his mental region and creating destruction all around before detonating itself. His mind was severely wounded, and his entire head felt heavy and woozy.

Psyker's attack had wiped out almost 200,000 HP, and Han Xiao immediately retreated. However, he also heard Psyker letting out a soft grunt at the same moment.

Bearing with the intense headache, Han Xiao looked over and saw Psyker bleeding from his every orifice.

This is... right! Han Xiao immediately looked at the combat information and almost burst out laughing.

Psyker's sneak attack had triggered the twenty percent mental rebound of [Supreme Piety]. Psyker had suffered from the rebound damage.

Although his Luck was low, Psyker had suffered from his Luck Curse and did not have very good luck either.

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I wonder if this is because of my good luck or his bad luck...

Right at this moment, Psyker lifted his head up, and six of his auxiliary eyes lit up to form a white circle on his face with his main eye being the center of the circle.

Following which, his appearance transformed again, and the skeleton armor covered his entire body, only revealing his seven eyes.

The combat information displayed that Psyker entered a new state with all his attributes explosively increasing. A new white layer appeared on his health bar, which was a full sixty percent of his max HP.

“Again,” Psyker said with a deep voice and his voice resounded like a bell.

Han Xiao’s mouth contorted.

Transforming again?

Do you think you are Frieza[1]?

This is against the rules! Do you think you can do as you wish just because you are a combat race?

A Beyond Grade A is truly perverse with never ending methods.

Han Xiao felt his balls ache.

Although Psyker did not have regenerative capabilities like him, he had many different forms that provided him with extra HP and defense.

When he was in the Calamity Grade, he had an almost BUG like ability among the Calamity Grade Supers. However, every Beyond Grade A existence was like a bug-like character, and not a single one was easy to deal with.

“Hiss...”

Han Xiao took a deep breath and circulated his energy to the maximum. Letting out a loud roar, Han Xiao led his mechanical army to clash with Psyker again!

After their previous exchange, Han Xiao had a rough estimate of the Psyker’s strength. Both of them were on par, and it would be extremely difficult for either of them to get rid of the other party. However, with his mechanical army being destroyed, his damage would decrease over time.

Since his mechanical army had to be rebuilt anyway, Han Xiao decided to ignore the damage to his army and make use of this opportunity to measure his combat strength. He would only have the chance to go all out when facing another Beyond Grade A Super.

Bang bang bang!

Their battle lasted a few hours, and they flew around the entire planet a few times, destroying its surface.

The surface of the planet was riddled with many unfathomable craters, and the intense vibrations on the surface of the planet caused lava to shoot out from these craters a few thousand meters into the

sky. The entire planet seemed to have become an orange that was riddled with holes, and all its juice was being squeezed out from it.

The lava that spurted out into the sky cooled down rapidly and rained down like meteors.

Bang!

This was the umpteenth time that both the figures had collided and separated.

Han Xiao floated in midair, and the surface of his mechanical suit shattered into pieces to reveal his body. This was already his fourth mechanical suit. His [Machinery Continuation] skill reached its time limit, and his mechanical suit was reduced to a pile of scrap metal.

The mechanical army in the surroundings had become sparse. Han Xiao had used his Waste Modification skill to reform the wasted machines too many times, and the upper limit had been reached. But even if this was the case, his mechanical army still had the size of about four million soldiers.

On the other side, Psyker's skeleton armor was half destroyed with blue blood all over his body, and his psychic energy was much weaker than before.

More than half of my mechanical army has been destroyed, and I'll be on the losing end if this battle continues, Han Xiao thought to himself. He won't be able to deal with me, and I can't do anything to him. There isn't a need to continue this battle. I should rebuild my mechanical army first...

Han Xiao's eyes sparkled, and he threw an Observer's Mark onto Psyker.

He would not be able to remove the psychic mark that Psyker had placed on the Evolution Cube and could only return the favor. With both of them aware of the other party's location, he would not be on the losing end.

"Hmm?" Psyker's eyes narrowed. His mental sense was acute, and he could clearly sense the feeling of being spied on but did not know where it came from.

He was not a mage who could grasp multidimensional energy, and although he could feel the Observer's Mark, he could not get rid of it.

Furthermore, Han Xiao was already a Beyond Grade A Super, and it would be even more difficult to get rid of his Observer's Mark. At the very least, it would be impossible for a Calamity Grade Mage to do so.

Clank!

Han Xiao then waved his arm and stored his mechanical army away. Without saying a word, he activated his Void Dimension Jump and disappeared in the blink of an eye.

During the battle, he had intentionally destroyed the other party's spaceship, and it would be impossible for Psyker to catch up to him in terms of flying speed.

Psyker watched as Han Xiao disappeared and did not make a move.

He had already gone all out, but Black Star was not at a disadvantage. It would be difficult for him to snatch the Evolution Cube back with just his own strength...

Han Xiao was not the only one who felt that they would not be able to do anything to each other. Psyker also had such a feeling.

He could not count the number of times he had attacked Black Star with his mental attack. However, the other party only seemed to have lost his mechanical army but remained as lively as a tiger.

Such a situation reminded him of the Tyrant.

“A new Beyond Grade A Mechanic who has a powerful physique like Tyrant,” Psyker muttered to himself. “Indestructible Body?”

Right at this moment, a figure flew over. It was Sardeem. His appearance seemed extremely pathetic, and he was equipped with a simple thruster made from spare parts.

“You’re still alive?” Psyker looked over.

“I hid myself when the two of you were fighting.”

Sardeem had a sense of lingering fear in his heart. He did not have any equipment on him, and the battle of two Beyond Grade A Supers was enough to threaten his life. He had long escaped from Psyker’s spaceship and escaped from the battlefield.

Looking at Psyker’s appearance, Sardeem asked with a trembling voice, “You... weren’t able to defeat Black Star?”

Psyker glanced at Sardeem and replied, “He escaped. I couldn’t keep him back.”

Sardeem took a deep breath. He had already expected such a reply but wanted to confirm it. Although he was already mentally prepared for such a reply, he was still filled with shock.

“The fifth Beyond Grade A Super has been born in the Shattered Star Ring, and the Star Field will experience a huge change,” Sardeem murmured. “I’d better send this piece of news to His Excellency Manison.”

“Not just the Shattered Star Ring...” Psyker interrupted him with a profound tone. “Perhaps the attention of the entire galaxy will be drawn.”

Psyker’s eyes gleamed. The Evolution Cube isn’t so easily taken.

With Black Star carrying the Evolution Cube around with him, it would be extremely difficult for him to snatch it back alone. Psyker decided to find a few allies and make further plans.

Before this, I shall leave the item in Black Star’s possession.

Since his psychic mark was still present, Psyker felt that things were within his control.

He then looked up at the sky. Psyker was not planning to fly with his body, so he looked at Sardeem.

“You’re a Mechanic, right?”

“Er, what’s the matter?” Sardeem was stunned for a moment.

Psyker pointed at the spare parts on the ground.

“Build a spaceship.”

“...” Sardeem.

[1] This is a Dragon Ball reference. It’s where the “This isn’t even my final form” meme comes from.

Chapter 764 The Impending Storm

Han Xiao left Psyker, who did not have a spaceship, on the unlucky planet and made use of his Void Dimension Jump to return to the Shattered Star Ring.

He contacted Hila and the others, who had left Planet Macipher, and got them to fetch him with the spaceship. Both parties finally met up in the desolate universe belt.

Whoosh.

The hatch of the spaceship opened, and Han Xiao was greeted by Hila and the two others the moment he entered the spaceship.

Feidin walked forward and studied Han Xiao. After making sure that he was completely intact, he heaved a sigh of relief. “It seems like you are alright. We’ve been extremely worried about you.”

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Hila snorted. “Speak for yourself...”

Upon hearing that, Han Xiao could not help but chuckle. “Actually, it wasn’t very dangerous. All of you should be extremely clear about how robust my life force is.”

“Talking about life force...” Aurora had a look of confusion on her face, and she said with disbelief in her voice, “If senses aren’t wrong, have you...”

“Has he what?” Hila interrupted.

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Han Xiao had a smile on his face and took out the Evolution Cube to play with it.

“Your guess is correct. I fought Psyker, and the outcome of the battle was a draw. He didn’t manage to snatch the item back.”

Fought Psyker to a draw?

Hila was stunned for a moment, and it took a second to understand what Han Xiao meant. She took a deep breath, and a look of disbelief could be seen on her usually expressionless face. She looked at Han Xiao with her eyes widened.

“Could it be that... Beyond Grade A?”

“It was by luck.” Han Xiao waved his hands but had a look of pride on his face.

After hearing him admit it, Hila, Aurora, and Feidin revealed looks of shock.

Black Star... is really a Beyond Grade A Super already?

Although the three of them had looked forward to Han Xiao achieving a breakthrough and standing among the ranks of the Beyond Grade A Supers, their trip with Han Xiao had felt more like a holiday, and they did not notice any signs of breakthrough from Han Xiao.

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All of them had felt that the chances of him achieving a breakthrough were not high.

However, he had achieved a breakthrough just like that! While they were not mentally prepared for it, Black Star had suddenly risen into the next grade and even fought a Beyond Grade A Super who had long made a name for himself to a draw. They truly could not imagine how Han Xiao did it.

The three of them felt their heads blank out at this moment.

After snapping out from their daze, they all erupted with surprise.

Although they were very surprised, it was a good thing!

Feidin was overjoyed. "Wonderful! I've always believed that you had such potential. We don't have to escape from the Shattered Star Ring if this is the case!"

"I never intended to escape..." Han Xiao said helplessly.

Aurora then looked at Han Xiao and asked with shock on her face, "Does this mean that you are already at our teacher's level?"

Ames? It is time for me to have a talk with her, Han Xiao thought to himself and nodded in response.

"You..." Hila hesitated for a while before swallowing what she wanted to say. "Congrats."

She had a complicated feeling in her heart. She had always wanted to chase after Han Xiao. When Han Xiao was still in the Calamity Grade, she could still spur herself to work harder. However, things were different this time.

During the ten years when she was on Floating Dragon Island, she had experienced Ames' strength many times and was extremely clear about the strength of a Beyond Grade A Super. At the same time, she was extremely clear about how difficult it would be to become a Beyond Grade A Super.

For so many years, the Star Field only had four Beyond Grade A Supers. Together with Han Xiao's advancement, there were now five. Hila had known Han Xiao for almost twenty years and witnessed his weak appearance, his invincible Calamity Grade appearance, and his every stage of development.

He had taken him a mere twenty years to go from an ordinary man to a new Beyond Grade A Super. He would probably be the individual who took the least amount of time to become a Beyond Grade A Super in history. Because she understood Han Xiao's past, Hila knew how difficult it was for Han Xiao to have achieved what he had.

Even if Hila refused to admit defeat on their surface, she could not help but admire Han Xiao's achievements in her heart.

If Hila had originally possessed any thoughts of competing with Han Xiao for glory, at this moment, she was willing to become the shadow behind Han Xiao's splendor.

She had a feeling that she was witnessing the birth of a legend.

Of course, it was impossible for her to reveal her true thoughts.

Hila then changed the topic and asked, "Just how did you do it? Can you teach me?"

Er, I can't teach you anything since you don't know how to harvest crops... Han Xiao coughed dryly before placing his hands on Hila's shoulders with a solemn expression.

"No, you don't need me to teach you anything."

"What do you mean?" Hila was puzzled.

Han Xiao then looked at Hila and said, "I have always believed in your potential. Just like how you believe in me, you will stand by my side at the peak of the galaxy one day."

Hila pushed Han Xiao's hands away and turned around to prevent Han Xiao from seeing her flustered appearance. She then said with a soft voice, "Thank you."

So, it turns out that you have so much trust in me. I didn't even know that...

"There isn't a need for thanks between us." Han Xiao waved his arms. "We've known each other for twenty years."

At this moment, Aurora pulled on Han Xiao's clothes and whined, "What about me? Do you believe in me?"

Han Xiao rubbed her head helplessly and said, "Wait until you reach the Calamity Grade."

"Humph. So biased." Aurora turned around.

After soaking in the excitement of Han Xiao becoming a Beyond Grade A Super, they then got back to the main point.

"Black Star, you took away Psyker's Evolution Cube; he won't give up so easily, right?"

"Hmm, he said that he will work together with the Tyrant to deal with me. Compared to the benefits of the Evolution Cube, this risk can be considered extremely low. There isn't a need to bother about him in the near future. He's still busy with something else." Han Xiao shook his head with a smile. From the Observer's Mark, he could see that Psyker was still on the planet and rushing Sardeem to build a new spaceship from spare parts.

Feidin frowned and said, "It'll be very dangerous if the Tyrant and Psyker work together."

Han Xiao waved his arms and said, "It isn't a big deal. Although I am a new Beyond Grade A Super, I do not belong to the bottommost rung of this level. Besides, I have allies as well."

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Isn't this a competition of numbers? You're not the only one who knows how to play that game.

As compared to the other Beyond Grade A Supers, his largest advantage was his clear path of advancement.

The other Beyond Grade A Supers would have to find their own path after entering Beyond Grade A, and it was akin to searching around in the dark. However, it was as though he had a torchlight with him, and he could easily progress by harvesting crops. His growth rate would completely outstrip the others.

“How are you planning to deal with the Evolution Cube?”

“Take it back to the camp first and let the officers enjoy the effects of the Evolution Cube.” Han Xiao stroked his chin. “I will then use it to find allies and a new backer.”

Psyker had the support of the Arcane Church, and he could achieve the same effect with the Evolution Cube in his hands.

Compared to Psyker, his advantage was the fact that the Evolution Cube was now portable. With him carrying it around, the likelihood of it being stolen was much lower.

News of him having the Evolution Cube would spread throughout the Galaxy eventually, and it was impossible for Psyker to help him keep the secret. Psyker might even choose to create more enemies for him.

At that time, all the organizations eyeing the Evolution Cube would have their attention drawn to him. It would be impossible for him to hold onto the Evolution Cube in the long term with just the strength of the Black Star Army, so he needed to find a backer.

Beep beep!

Right at this moment, an emergency transmission lit up on his communicator. Han Xiao glanced at his communicator, and it was a communication request by Ralph.

Han Xiao waved his arm to ask Hila and the others to pilot the spaceship. He then walked to the side and picked up the call.

“Black Star, I have a heaven breaking piece of bad news!”

“You make it sound as though we had good news in the past.” Han Xiao was in a good mood and joked.

Ralph ignored his joke and said with a solemn tone, “We verified a piece of news a few days ago. The Crimson Dynasty have concluded their negotiations with the Federation of Light. After the Crimson Dynasty takes over the new Star Field, they will turn their attention to the storm that they created in the various regions. Our secret war with Klent will also come to an end in half a year’s time!”

“Oh?” Han Xiao muttered. “This is a piece of bad news indeed.”

The Bloodshed Land still controlled a few Star Systems around the borders of the Colton Star Cluster, and Klent was the loyal lackey of the Crimson Dynasty. The Crimson Dynasty would definitely make use of this excuse to demarcate these territories as part of the Klent Kingdom. The authority of deciding borders was something that the three Universal Civilizations gave to themselves, and if Section Zero were unable to chase Bloodshed Land out before then, Purple Crystal would probably lose those few territories.

The Shattered Star Ring belonged to the management zone of the Federation of Light. Unless Purple Crystal gave up their neutrality and chose to submit to another civilization, it would be impossible for

anyone to come out and uphold justice for them. The Crimson Dynasty and Federation of Light would be exchanging benefits at a higher level, and Purple Crystal did not even have the right to interfere in their negotiations. They could only watch as their territories were taken away.

Of course, Purple Crystal could strongly protest against the decision made by the three Universal Civilizations and unilaterally decide to reject their decision. However, the outcome of such a decision definitely would not be a pretty one. As the ones setting the rules, the three Universal Civilizations would not allow anyone to challenge their authority. All three civilizations were powerful civilizations who had been through dark times and definitely were not merciful characters.

With the strength to overlook the entire galaxy, they had countless methods to make a civilization submit. The rules were completely irrelevant to those who set the rules.

Thus, Han Xiao was not too surprised about the appearance of the Silver Revolutionary Army. However, it was still far too early to talk about that.

“Black Star, your holiday is over,” Ralph said with a solemn expression. “We need your strength to snatch back as many territories as possible.”

Han Xiao stroked his chin and came to a decision. “The biggest backing of the Klent Kingdom is the Crimson Dynasty. However, I have an idea to get the Crimson Dynasty to stay out of this matter and not help Klent negotiate with the Federation of Light. This way, it will be useless even if the Bloodshed Land occupies the border Star Systems.”

Ralph’s eyes lit up, and he immediately asked, “What idea do you have?”

“I...” Han Xiao then thought about something and decided against telling Purple Crystal that he was a Beyond Grade A Super. “It is extremely likely for my plan to succeed, but I have to keep it a secret for now. You just need to believe in me. In any case, the situation can’t be worse than it is right now.”

It was not that Han Xiao wanted to hide his Beyond Grade A strength. If Purple Crystal knew about his newfound strength, they would announce it to the entire world to serve as a deterrent.

This was not good for him.

His original plan was to remain low profile after entering Beyond Grade A and accumulate his strength. When the Tyrant attempted to kill him, the Tyrant would then underestimate his strength, and he would be able to deal a low blow to the Tyrant. However, the sudden appearance of the Evolution Cube spoiled his plans, and it would be impossible for him to hide his strength. Despite that, Han Xiao did not want to fight the Tyrant immediately.

He needed some time to build a new mechanical army and Beyond Grade A base. He still had to activate many of the Emperor Mechanic skills and allow his combat strength to reach the peak. Compared to letting Purple Crystal announce his strength to the world, he would rather let Psyker slowly reveal news to the Star Field. This way, he would have a bit more time.

There was another reason he did not wish to let Purple Crystal know of his strength. Han Xiao wanted to increase his value.

If he was an ordinary Beyond Grade A, his best choice would be to form an alliance with a Star Cluster civilization just like Heber had done. Although Universal Civilizations also welcomed Beyond Grade A Supers, they would not place such great importance on these Beyond Grade A Supers compared to a Star Cluster civilization. After all, that which is rare is dear.

However, things were different with the Evolution Cube. The Evolution Cube was a unique Universal Treasure, and with Psyker as an example, the Universal Civilizations would offer an even higher price. This way, their Black Star Army would be raised to the next level.

Because of the existence of the Flickering World, Han Xiao had already decided that the Crimson Dynasty would be his most suitable ally.

If he formed an alliance with the Crimson Dynasty, he would be able to resolve the secret war and foil the plans of the Klent Kingdom.

If he allowed things to develop normally, the outcome of the S Grade secret war mission would probably be failure. Although it was because of the uniqueness of the mission, and they would still have some reward, their mission rating would be lowered, and the players of the Black Star Army would not be able to gain the best reward.

Considering the need to maintain the players' reliance on the Black Star Army, joining the Crimson Dynasty was the best choice.

Before Ralph could continue questioning him, Han Xiao hung up and walked to the cockpit.

Aurora sat on the pilot's seat and asked, "Where are we going?"

Han Xiao smirked.

"Back to the army!"

...

A few days later, Sardeem finally returned to Planet Macipher. At the same time, he brought with him a piece of shocking news. He said that he had personally witnessed the Beyond Grade A seed Black Star, who had the title of 'Indestructible Body', becoming a Beyond Grade A Super.

This news rapidly spread through Planet Macipher, and many visitors on the planet did not believe it.

Why would Black Star become the fifth Beyond Grade A Super in the Shattered Star Ring so suddenly? Why did Purple Crystal not react? Could it be a rumor?

This piece of news was not backed by any evidence, and the galactic residents who had been exposed to a wide variety of information were not convinced.

However, Psyker, who was a guest on Planet Macipher, actually personally admitted it!

All doubts disappeared, and the entire planet was filled with shock!

The fifth Beyond Grade A is born!

Oh my goodness! This is big news!

The residents of Planet Macipher who had received this news were dumbfounded and immediately posted this piece of news on the net.

News of the battle between Black Star and Psyker spread rapidly like a virus throughout the entire Star Field.

A storm that was about to sweep through the entire Shattered Star Ring began brewing...

Chapter 765 Prelude to Change

In some transit station at the border of the Shattered Star Ring.

In an olden style inn, Hadavy sat in the corner and drank a glass of strong wine. There were mixed blood elves performing on the stage with a beautiful tone lingering in his ears. The customers of the inn were of many different races, and they were laughing merrily.

The atmosphere was soothing, but Hadavy had a depressed look on his face.

A few months ago, Jorde had made use of him to launch a sneak attack against Black Star. Hadavy had terminated the cooperation with them in a fit of rage and left the secret war.

He had chosen to join the Bloodshed Land because he wanted to spar with Black Star and stimulate his potential through battle. After fighting Black Star more than ten times, he could not help but feel a sense of appreciation for Han Xiao. In his eyes, Black Star was an opponent worthy of respect.

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Hadavy would rather lose to Black Star time and time again than use despicable methods to deal with him.

After this event, Hadavy no longer had the face to find Han Xiao to spar. He planned to leave the Shattered Star Ring and roam the other Star Fields. This was the reason he had visited the borders of the Shattered Star Ring.

Just when he was drinking and depressed, a conversation caught his attention.

“Have all of you heard? The fifth Beyond Grade A Super has appeared in the Shattered Star Ring!”

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What? A new Beyond Grade A?

He was a Beyond Grade A seed and his target had always been becoming a Beyond Grade A Super. Thus, he paid close attention to this topic.

With his senses of a Calamity Grade Super, the conversation of the table beside him seemed to be right beside his ears.

“You have heard about it, too? I know about Black Star. There were reports about him a few years ago saying that he was the most likely person to become a Beyond Grade A Super in the Shattered Star Ring. I thought that it was no more than a farce at that time but never imagined that it would actually become the truth.”

“He is the leader of the Black Star Army. All of you should know about the Black Star Army, right? It is the famous armed organization in the Colton Star Cluster. I have a friend who is a merchant. Once, his merchant ship was robbed, and he sought help from the Mercenary League to solve the problem. They sent the Black Star Army, and the mercenaries of this organization are extremely friendly and reliable.”

“Didn’t he become low profile over the past few years?” someone else asked curiously. “I heard that news of him becoming a Beyond Grade A Super is only a rumor.”

“It isn’t a rumor. Even ‘Star Pupil’ Psyker admitted that he only fought Black Star to a draw. If he is able to fight a Beyond Grade A Super without losing, he can only be a Beyond Grade A Super.”

Ka-la!

Hadavy crushed the wine glass in his hands, and wine splashed all over his body. However, he was still in a daze with a look of shock on his face.

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Black Star has actually become a Beyond Grade A Super already!

Upon hearing news of his old opponent, Hadavy could not help but be filled with envy and jealousy. He had spent a few decades but not touched the door of Beyond Grade A.

He had already given it his all but was still overtaken by others. After being filled with shock, his heart was filled with bitterness.

Why can he do it? What trick did he use?

Hadavy’s face changed color, and he hammered down on the table before standing up abruptly. The sudden commotion attracted the gaze of all the customers present.

Ignoring the strange looks on their faces, Hadavy left the inn.

He came to a decision. He would not leave the Shattered Star Ring but make a trip to the headquarters of the Black Star Army.

This time, he would not go on behalf of the Bloodshed Land but using his personal identity.

Perhaps Black Star would not recognize an old opponent like him, and his life might be in danger...

However, he had been troubled by the problem of becoming a Beyond Grade A Super for many years. He decided to take this risk. Regardless of whether Black Star showed him any respect, he wanted to give it a shot.

...

The headquarters of the Mercenary League in the Gelock Star Cluster was a gigantic space fortress built by Black Star, Sky Ring, Blades, and many other large sized mercenary groups. Surrounding the gigantic space fortress were more than twenty armed satellites that were the branches of the respective large sized mercenary groups. The Black Star Army also had a branch located there. To all the members of the Mercenary League, this was akin to a second headquarters.

The million or so new players who were on Planet Deirdre had participated in many different storylines. Some of them had chosen to join the secret war while others had chosen to remain in the Gelock Star Cluster and follow the storyline of the Mercenary League.

The storyline mission of the Mercenary League also gave huge rewards, and with the background of the Black Star Army, the players had plenty of mercenary missions to choose from.

After a few months, the average level of the players had risen rapidly, and they were all approaching level sixty.

Han Xiao's legends had spread to the Mercenary League, and the players in the branch had also heard about it.

After the news spread, a huge commotion was created on the forums, and the players were all shocked.

Han Xiao was an NPC that the players were extremely familiar with, and many of the players respected him as the leader of their faction. They had witnessed his growth from Version 1.0 to Version 3.0, and Han Xiao was a legendary character in the Shattered Star Ring to the players.

At this moment, a new chapter of this legend had begun.

All the players who participated in the secret war were even more shocked. Black Star had disappeared from the battlefield for a few months, and many of them had been guessing Black Star's whereabouts. However, none of them had guessed that he would return as a Beyond Grade A Super!

This news became a hot topic on the forums, and all the players of the Black Star Army were extremely agitated. As part of the Black Star Army, the promotion of their leader brought them glory as well.

"What else is there to say? Our Army Commander is the coolest! Black Star is the coolest!"

"There were only four Beyond Grade A Supers in the Shattered Star Ring before this, and Black Star is the fifth. Does this mean that our army is going to become a Beyond Grade A organization as well?"

"Of course!"

"Wahahaha. Our Planet Aquamarine faction leader is too awesome. We can match up to all the other factions in the other player regions alone. A growth type faction is too tyrannical."

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"@Summer Night Flower, stop hiding. Get over here!"

"@Summer Night Flower, how's life in Bloodshed Land? Come out and share your experiences with us. We won't laugh at you. Hahaha..."

"@Summer Night Flower, please begin your performance."

"@Summer..."

Summer Night Flower's post from a few months ago was now trending, and many players were gloating at his misfortune.

Seeing the excitement of the other players, Summer Night Flower did not dare show himself.

What is going on? The storyline shouldn't be like this!

Some were feeling their nuts ache while others were overjoyed. Compared to Summer Night Flower, Bun-Hit-Dog was overjoyed.

Bun-Hit-Dog had been frustrated over not having any good material the last few months, but Black Star had gone and become a peak expert in the galaxy during this period. There was no better material than this.

He already had some ideas. This can be a milestone episode in the Black Star series.

Many of the older players were having merry conversations on the forums while the new players read the posts from the side silently. The newbies from Version 3.0 did not have very deep feelings toward Black Star, but after participating in the conversation, they had a much deeper impression of Han Xiao.

Very quickly, the news became an official report that was placed on the desks of various large organizations, causing an even greater commotion at a higher level.

Compared to the galactic residents who only wanted to join in the fun, the various organizations of the Shattered Star Ring had to consider how the birth of a new Beyond Grade A would affect the situation in the Shattered Star Ring as well as how they should interact with Black Star.

...

On Planet Heber, Jorde stood up abruptly after reading the report and had a look of disbelief on his face.

"Black Star is a Beyond Grade A? How is this possible! Didn't I..."

All of a sudden, his heart was thrown into a mess. His scheme had originally forced Black Star to back out from the war, but Black Star had now become a Beyond Grade A.

All his plans were disrupted!

Jorde hurried over to the Tyrant's abode and looked at Heber. Just when he was about to give a report, Heber took the initiative to speak.

"I know about it already. Klent just contacted me about it; they are extremely flustered. They are trying to verify the truth at the moment and told me to make preparations."

Heber sounded as though he was a little excited.

Upon hearing that, Jorde calmed himself down and asked, "What should I do?"

"You don't have to do anything," Heber said slowly. "When Black Star or Purple Crystal admits that he is a Beyond Grade A, it will become my business."

Jorde could not help but gulp in anticipation. The Tyrant... His Excellency Heber was about to take action!

Heber shook his head and got Jorde to leave. Heber was the only one left in the palace.

Du! Du!

Right at this moment, his communicator rang.

Heber looked at the caller, and his eyes narrowed.

“Psyker? It has been a long time since he last contacted me. Why is this fellow looking for me?”

...

In some region of the Shattered Star Ring, the final Light Fox spaceship was escaping. This fellow was the last of EsGod’s subordinates who was lucky enough to survive.

“I lost contact with Orozen and the others, and don’t know where the Evolution Cube went. What should we do?”

“They should be dead. Black Star became a Beyond Grade A Super and fought Psyker. The Evolution Cube may be in his hands.”

“Quickly report this matter to EsGod. We failed.”

...

Very quickly, news spread across the Star Field to every level and region, and more and more people found out about this piece of news.

The entire Shattered Star Ring was shaken!

As long as a new Beyond Grade A was born, it would definitely become the headlines of the Star Field for a long period of time.

Every Beyond Grade A figure had once been in the spotlight of the entire world.

It was now Han Xiao’s turn to enjoy such treatment.

The attention of the Shattered Star Ring was gathered on the Black Star Army. Rumors were rumors after all, and everyone was waiting for the new Beyond Grade A to announce his status in the Star Field and admit his strength personally.

However, regardless of the rumors in the outside world, Black Star did not appear, and the Black Star Army did not release a statement. The media was blocked out of the headquarters of the Black Star Army, and even their ally Purple Crystal was unusually quiet.

The longer this lasted, the more anxious the other organizations became, desperate to confirm Black Star’s strength.

Everyone was waiting to see what would happen next.

By that point, Han Xiao had returned to the Black Star Army and summoned all his officers.

Chapter 766 Setting Up the Black Star Guards Regiment

The spaceship sailed into the private port of the army headquarters and slid through a secret channel to arrive at Han Xiao’s personal dock. This dock was not open to members of the Black Star Army and was a

dedicated back door for the senior officers. Compared to the boisterous harbor, this place seemed quite deserted, and the atmosphere was more somber.

Standing around the dock were the dozens of senior officers that had been called over. They had long gathered in this place, with solemn expressions on their faces.

Among them were the Calamity Grades who had been at the front line just a while ago. Due to the rumors of Han Xiao advancing to Beyond Grade A, the situation of the secret war had started to show strange changes. Before this, the two sides had been fighting for several months, but as soon as the news came out, both sides tacitly gathered their troops and began to reduce the number of battles. All of them began the game of wait-and-see, so the Black Star Army was able to transfer their officers back.

Both sides knew that if a Beyond Grade A appeared on both sides, then the direction of the secret war would no longer be left to them.

While Han Xiao had not shown himself, he had already started to subtly influence the situation as a Beyond Grade A, directly affecting the secret war.

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Whoosh!

The cabin door opened, and Han Xiao stepped forward. The eyes of many of the officers, including Sylvia's, lit up. They contained excitement, joy, and expectation.

All the officers present sized Han Xiao up. While there were no outward changes to his appearance, everyone could feel a sense of pressure, which came from the natural suppression of a higher life form.

The crowd exchanged glances, with confused looks, and looked toward Feidin, who was standing behind Han Xiao. Feidin only smiled and nodded at everyone else.

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Han Xiao stepped onto the dock, sweeping his gaze over everyone present before giving a slight nod. As he walked forward, the officers all made way for him to pass through before walking behind him, entering the inner quarters of the Black Star Army headquarters.

The group arrived at the Army Commander's office in the headquarters. Sylvia was at the back and shut the door after everyone had entered. Han Xiao then turned around to address everyone. He nodded as he said, "I know that many of you are curious if the rumors outside are true. I only told you that I would be issuing a notice, but right now, I can say that the rumors are not wrong. I'm now a Beyond Grade A Super."

Upon hearing the personal confirmation, the taut expressions of the majority of them relaxed. Some even showed expressions of joy, and some, expressions of respect.

Sylvia, Herlous, and the older officers had the most excited expressions. They were the ones most loyal to Han Xiao and had been with the army the longest.

Reynold could not help but immediately wish to beg Han Xiao for some tutelage. He was the one most excited about it.

As for the few Calamity Grades who had joined the Black Star Army a few years prior, they were betting on Han Xiao being a Beyond Grade A seed that would rise to a true Beyond Grade A with time. The moment Han Xiao turned into a true Beyond Grade A, they would also become the backbone of this strong force.

It seemed like their bets had paid off, and their futures were bright.

The Vice Commander Lagi sighed, his face bitter as he said, "Now that you've become a Beyond Grade A, we'll likely be involved in the battle vortex of Beyond Grade As in the future, encountering stronger and stronger opponents. I feel that my life is less safe, so I would like to step down as the Vice Commander... Reynold, are you lacking people in the Logistics department? Is there a more leisurely position?"

Reynold remained expressionless. "That's fine with me. I'm currently lacking a Senior Enchantment Engineer. I'll pay you a daily salary of 2,000 Enas, and you have to work for fifteen hours a day. There will occasionally be overtime. Do you want to try it out?"

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"... Forget it, I'll stay as the Vice Commander. I get paid without having to work. That's so much better."

Han Xiao's brain started to cramp up. "Talking about skiving in front of me, do you think that I don't exist anymore? Oh, by the way, where's that Tomar guy that I handed to you? How's his progress?"

Hearing this, Lagi's expression became even more twisted. He seemed to be filled with a negative aura, as though he would squat down at any moment and begin to draw circles on the floor.

"Just where did you find that genius? He's beginning to make me feel as though my years of learning magic are all wasted. Indeed, I should not have chosen the Mage profession all those years ago..."

Ok, that's enough, you can go to the corner and reflect in silence...

Han Xiao's mouth twitched, but he forcibly suppressed the words he wished to say and regained his impassive expression.

"Today, my reason for gathering all of you is for two things. The first was to inform you that I've reached Beyond Grade A. As for its importance, I don't need to emphasize it, but the business of Black Star Army will be able to expand far beyond what it is currently, rising to a real Beyond Grade A organization and fighting head on against Bloodshed Land."

Upon hearing the gravity of this matter, other than Lagi who was still murmuring nonsense, the rest all turned serious.

"By all means, this matter should have been announced in a high profile so that the entire Star Field knows of my existence..." Han Xiao shook his finger. "But for certain reasons, it is temporarily inconvenient to confirm the rumors that I've become a Beyond Grade A. I also do not intend to announce it within the headquarters yet. However, this acknowledgment is basically formal, high-profile behavior, and most organizations already believe in the truth of this rumor. Thus, even if I do not step up, there'll still be messengers that will come and contact us.

"Therefore, I'll need you all to cover up this fact to a certain extent. Secretly contact those forces who intend to cooperate with us, screen them, and handle the cooperative relationships. This matter

involves us becoming a Beyond Grade A organization, so the earlier we get this done, the better. As for the specifics, you guys are veterans at this and should know what to look out for.”

Everyone else nodded.

Was it not just getting support? They had long learned this from their Army Commander himself.

Han Xiao then raised up his second finger. “The second thing is regarding benefits for you...”

As he spoke, he took out the Evolution Cube, letting it float in midair as he smiled.

“This is the Evolution Cube. That’s right. It’s the Universal Treasure that was originally with Psyker. After a series of coincidences, I intercepted this thing and had a fight with Psyker. Thus, this is now in my hands...” He then went on to describe the benefits of the Evolution Cube.

As soon as this remark was made, everyone stood stunned, their mouths open in disbelief.

It was rumored that Black Star had fought with Psyker, which led everyone to speculate why they would fight. The officers had also been curious about this but did not expect the reason to be about the Evolution Cube!

The Evolution Cube has changed owners?

It’s now in the hands of our Army Commander?

One of the Calamity Grades, Mischech, gulped and stuttered with a look full of expectation, “Do... do you mean to allow us to enjoy the benefits that the Evolution Cube brings?”

Han Xiao nodded and laughed. “I’ve already let Feidin and the rest use it. Since the cube is now in my hands, I’ll definitely allow my own officers to enjoy the benefits. You’re all the backbone of my army, and helping you all get stronger means that the army will also become stronger.”

Most of the Calamity Grades who came later were overjoyed. They did not expect to receive such benefits. For most of the Calamity Grades, they were extremely enthusiastic whenever it came to ways to enhance their strength.

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Lagi also stopped his murmuring and immediately lunged forward to grip Han Xiao’s hands, his face solemn.

“As your Vice Commander, it’s my responsibility to inform you that the priority of benefits should be given by our ranks. I’ve shed so much sweat and blood for the army, and as your Vice Commander, you should know what I mean...”

Han Xiao swatted his hands away, glancing at him sideways as he retorted, “You might have sweated for the army, but you’ve never bled for us before, so this makes things difficult to place.”

Lagi clutched his chest ‘painfully’, putting on a helpless expression. “Actually... I was heavily injured once on the battlefield...”

“Scram aside, you won’t lose your benefits anyway.” Han Xiao could not be bothered to argue with him any longer. “When we talk about work, you lie there like a corpse, but the moment we mention benefits, you immediately jump up. This guy, you’re getting more and more sly.”

Even Lagi—who was like a salted fish, not interested in anything happening around him—was excited. This spoke volumes about the attractiveness of the Evolution Cube.

The Evolution Cube was provided to the Senior Officers free of charge, and for the other members of the organization, Han Xiao did not intend to hide it. He first intended to form an alliance with the Crimson Dynasty to completely protect the Evolution Cube before opening it to the entire army. According to their ranks, they would pay a corresponding amount, which would allow them to enjoy the Evolution Cube while comprehensively improving the combat capability of the entire army.

This could also attract countless Supers to the army.

At the same time, this was a new service that would be provided to players. The forty percent experience penalty only applied to upgrades, which was not a big problem for the players. As long as it was used after reaching the upper limit of the current version, there was no problem in having the experience penalty.

Even if the players could not resist and used the Evolution Cube before their level cap was reached, it was also not harmful to Han Xiao. Since there would be a penalty for upgrading, players would use their experience to improve their skills or learn new knowledge, which would still flow into his pocket.

This was perfect!

With this in mind, Han Xiao could not help but smile. After that, he shelved the unnecessary thoughts, returning to the actual topic. “Basically, these are the two matters. I’ll use the Evolution Cube to help you all optimize your genes in a while. But before this, I would like to announce new personnel appointments.”

Hearing his words, everyone quietened down as well.

Han Xiao tilted his head toward Hila, saying, “From today onward, the Black Star Guards will be formally established, selecting the Calamity Grade Supers to be part of it. This is an elite combat team that takes orders solely from me. With regards to officer rankings, Hila will serve as the first captain of the Black Star Guards. Does anyone have any objections?”

While the Beyond Grade A did not require bodyguards, they would always have an elite force under them that was well-known. For example, Heber had his Vanguard Officials, Austin had the Forbidden Sorcerers, Psyker had his Grand Priests, and Ames had... uh... her Black Star Army?

Because Beyond Grade As usually did not deign to personally act, only serving as deterrence, Han Xiao also planned to establish a small elite team that would be used to act in most situations. A Beyond Grade A Super had their own dignity and should not move so easily.

Hila stepped forward and faced everyone with a passive expression. “Who agrees? Who wishes to object?”

While she had only been in the army for a few months, most of the old Officers recognized her and would not have any issues. As for those that had joined later, they recognized her for her identity as the disciple of Dragon Emperor Ames and naturally did not doubt her strength.

Seeing the situation, Hila slowly nodded and returned to standing behind Han Xiao without a single word.

Han Xiao tilted his hand as he asked, "Feidin, would you be interested in joining the Black Star Guards as well?"

While Feidin's status in the army had been more of a guest, after months of getting along, Han Xiao felt that their relationship should have improved, and they were ready to take things to the next level... inviting him to become a direct officer under him.

Feidin thought for a while before revealing a warm smile. "Alright."

This guy is finally mine... Han Xiao secretly exclaimed to himself before turning back to look at the rest of the officers. He then picked a couple more battle-hardened Calamity Grade officers for his elite forces—one of which was Marian.

The Black Star Guards had a total of four members, which could be considered barely established. This was just a prototype, as he would recruit more once his status as a Beyond Grade A was publicized to the Star Field and they recruited more experts.

After finishing all his official matters, Han Xiao then activated the Evolution Cube, performing genetic optimization for all the officers at once. As long as the energy output of the Evolution Cube was adjusted, multiple people could be optimized at the same time.

Once all of that was finished, Han Xiao dispersed the crowd before locking himself in the machinery modification room. He began to create his Beyond Grade A combat equipment. This was the most important task at present, as strength was still fundamental. Other matters would be placed behind the priority of restoring his combat capability.

His mechanical army, mechanical suit, weapons, and so on needed to be remanufactured and updated with his Beyond Grade A class level.

...

"He's already achieved Beyond Grade A..."

Aroshia returned to her home, and Risda emerged in midair, saying, "He has the ability to save our race now. Aroshia, go talk to him."

However, Aroshia slowly shook her head. "We've got to at least wait for him to pass this current hurdle and for the Black Star Army to stabilize, else he won't help. There's no harm in waiting a while longer."

"We've already waited for a long time, and thinking of my comrades being oppressed by Manison, I really don't wish to wait any longer!" Risda was a little unsatisfied. "I can see that Black Star has always been trying to put us off."

But Aroshia blandly replied, "I don't think so. Just the two of us are enough to give Black Star the motivation to deal with another Beyond Grade A."

She had already regained her memories and was now the combination of her three personalities within her mind. She was still her, but she was no longer so ignorant.

"If you're not willing, I'll look for a time to talk to him," Risda said. "There must be a way somehow."

Risda then severed the connection, disappearing in midair.

...

The Black Star Army's silence did not result in the excitement of the Star Field dying down but in fact gave them a mysterious vibe, attracting even more attention from others. Practically everyone was guessing that Black Star should have certain problems that did not allow him to speak up, but he could not remain silent forever.

As the news continued to spread and Han Xiao's influence stewed even more, in an area where no one knew what was going on, many things were happening.

In the presence of this undercurrent, another half a month passed.

Han Xiao exited his machinery modification room—he had built the prototype of his new army.

Chapter 767 Announcement 1

In Han Xiao's personal factory, dozens of army boxes were lined up in a row with a few hundred different mechanical soldiers lining up neatly. They were arranged from tall to short and light to heavy as though it was an exhibition.

"Seventy percent of the soldiers weren't changed, and the new blueprints that came from Sardeem's collection were mostly giant soldiers. Another portion of blueprints are those newly merged blueprints. Although there isn't an upgrade in my knowledge, I managed to unlock new blueprints after becoming a Beyond Grade A and got a good amount of new blueprints from gambling..."

Han Xiao placed his hands behind his back and studied the different models.

A new army was usually created by using the new skills that he obtained after reaching Beyond Grade A to forge more powerful machines with better attributes. The introduction of new models was not that important.

Because of the lack of time, Han Xiao did not have the chance to learn any new knowledge, and the majority of his mechanical soldiers were still old models. However, their attributes were far stronger than his previous army. With the increase in his Intelligence, the bonus from [Supreme Prestige] and [Mechanical Genius] largely increased the attributes of his mechanical army.

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However, even if they were old models, these mechanical soldiers were the elite products that had gone through many generations of improvements. The ordinary soldiers were all rebuilt, and all his elite

forces such as the Oathkeepers and Phantoms were also reconstructed. At the same time, he had plenty of new additions such as the giant soldiers, Planetary Obliteration Group, Black Knights, and so on.

As for the weapons with large firepower, Han Xiao had modified the various satellite cannons. Because he had not learned the relevant knowledge, he was not able to construct a true Planetary Obliteration Cannon. However, the satellite cannons that he modified had comparable strength to the Ice Age Star Freezing Cannon. Furthermore, its penetrative and explosive abilities were even more powerful. Although it would be impossible to destroy a planet now, destroying a continent wouldn't be a problem.

With his firepower reaching the Beyond Grade A level, Han Xiao also built a new mechanical suit to replace his Mountain Ape suit.

The new mechanical suit had a black theme with some yellow accents. It looked extremely sturdy and was like a growling beast.

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The mechanical suit was made from precious alloys, and the nano transformation technology was further strengthened to improve its self-repairing capabilities. The strength of the mechanic suit was its movement speed. It was equipped with a high speed hyperdrive thruster that enabled Han Xiao to swiftly avoid enemy attacks in battle. As for its firepower, apart from the normal energy and close-range weapons, it also had a psionic energy furnace to increase damage.

The name of this mechanical suit was Battle Tiger. The Mountain Ape suit was suitable for those at level 165, and this 'Battle Tiger' suit was level-215 orange equipment. Its attributes were increased in every way. Its armor was over 100,000 points, and its energy was over 10,000 points. Before obtaining new knowledge and forging a new trump card suit, Han Xiao planned to temporarily use this suit to increase his strength.

The mechanical suit came with many additional abilities, including a variety of close combat abilities and a sound wave attack called 'Tiger Roar'. It was even more powerful than the Mountain Ape suit in terms of violence and was far superior to the Mountain Ape suit in terms of armor and damage. This was a killing machine suitable for many different battlefields.

These machines have all reached Beyond Grade A. As long as there's enough of them, I will be able to fight normally.

There were other larger machines that he had not had the time to build, such as the Eternal Light and a new base. When he activated [Secondary Dimension Army], he would be able to break through the limits of the compressed orb. At that time, he would be able to carry an entire satellite fortress and different super-sized machines with him.

Boom!

Right at that moment, the room trembled slightly.

"Is there a problem?"

Han Xiao's eyes narrowed, and he contacted Phillip.

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“What happened?”

“Someone forcefully broke through the defensive line of the headquarters and landed on the satellite base. I will now send you images of the satellite, hum...”

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The next moment, the image of the satellite appeared before him. A man broke through from the barricade of the battleships and landed on the surface of the satellite, resulting in an alarm being set off. The warriors of the army then flooded out and surrounded the man.

Upon seeing the appearance of this individual, Han Xiao was slightly shocked.

“Hadavy?”

“Master, hum... your Guards Regiment have rushed over already. Are you going to take care of matters personally?”

Han Xiao’s eyes narrowed, and the Battle Tiger suit transformed into a bracelet on his arm. He then opened the door of the workshop and walked out.

“Tell Hila to not let him escape. I will go over immediately.”

...

At the same time, a few hundred spaceships were floating around the Black Star Army headquarters and recording the scene before them.

These spaceships were the news spaceships from the various galactic media groups. In order to get first-hand information of Black Star’s true strength, they had been waiting there for half a month. However, they had been blocked out by the defensive fleet of the Black Star Army and could only float in space nearby.

When a Calamity Grade Super appeared and broke through the defensive line of the Black Star Army fleet, the commotion immediately drew the attention of the galactic reporters, and they all became energetic.

The rumors said that Black Star had already become a Beyond Grade A Super, but there were still those who dared to provoke him. These reporters could keenly sense that this was the chance to dig up some interesting news. As such, they all gathered around to watch.

“I know this person. He’s Hadavy, and he had appeared in the secret war before. He is someone on the Bloodshed Land’s side.”

“Could this be provocation from the Bloodshed Land? Are they announcing war with the Black Star Army publicly?”

“There will be a nice show to watch!”

In the entrance of the satellite, the soldiers formed three layers of encirclement around Hadavy with numerous cannons being aimed at him. Hadavy was not flustered in the slightest and said, “I am here to see your Army Commander. Since your fleet wouldn’t let me in, I could only barge in.”

Because Han Xiao had issued the order that he would not meet anyone before going into seclusion, all miscellaneous issues had been handed over to Sylvia and Herlous. The defensive fleet had strictly followed Han Xiao's orders, and Hadavy did not manage to get an exception after reporting his name. He had thus barged in.

At this moment, a beam of red light appeared in front of Hadavy.

"Don't move," Hila said with a frosty expression.

Hadavy paused for a moment and sized Hila up. "Who are you?"

"Captain of the Black Star Guards, Hila."

"Black Star Guards?" Hadavy's eyes lit up.

Chapter 768 Announcement 2

This was the first time that Hadavy had heard of the Black Star Guards. However, this was not the first time that he had seen Hila.

There was a period of time when Han Xiao had taken Hila around the various frontline battlefields. Before leaving the Bloodshed Land, Hadavy had once looked through Hila's file, and this was the first time that he had met her.

He looked around the surroundings, and the densely packed warriors blocked all avenues of escape.

"Where is Black Star? I want to see him!" Hadavy shouted.

"Our Army Commander isn't someone you can meet whenever you want to," Hila then replied coldly. "Hadavy, you have provoked our headquarters. You'd better surrender yourself right now."

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Upon hearing that, Hadavy looked at Hila and said provocatively, "And if not? Are you going to catch me?"

Hu!

Hila lost her patience and immediately took action. Blood-red energy gushed out from her body and smashed into Hadavy's chest. It sent him flying into the sky, and a small red shockwave exploded.

The light faded, and Hadavy floated in midair with a solemn expression on his face.

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As a well-known Beyond Grade A seed in the Shattered Star Ring; ordinary Calamity Grade Supers would not be able to harm him at all. However, Hila's casual attack made him feel a wave of deathly energy invading his body. A portion of his cells became inactive, and he felt as though his life force was being absorbed.

Although the damage was not large, the destructive force of the red-haired woman before him was something that an ordinary Calamity Grade Super would not be able to match up to.

After obtaining the benefits of the Evolution Cube, she had experienced an obvious rise in combat strength, and her destructive force had become much more frightening. The death energy that she gave out could reduce the activity of her target and inflict special damage. Even Hadavy was not able to block it completely and had to treat her seriously.

Bang!

Hila's stomp generated a sonic boom, and she shot toward the sky. The dense death energy was like a tsunami crashing down on Hadavy.

The two collided in midair, and an intense battle broke out. Rings of visible energy waves exploded forth, and the warriors by the side did not interfere in the battle between them. They left the battlefield to those two and watched from the side.

A portion of the Calamity Grade officers who were currently present watched the battle by the side and had no intention of interfering.

"Sylvia, do we really not need to intervene?" a Calamity Grade officer asked.

Sylvia shook her head and said, "His Excellency Black Star wants to set up the Black Star Guards. It isn't to protect him but to let the various organizations know that he has an elite force under his command. Hadavy is a powerful fellow, and Hila will be able to gain a great amount of fame as long as she doesn't lose to him. This will be the first impression the world has of the Black Star Guards."

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"But if she loses, won't..."

"Someone personally chosen by my teacher won't lose so easily."

The scene of Hila and Hadavy fighting was recorded by all the galactic reporters in the surroundings. This group of reporters watched the fight unblinkingly as they wrote their draft, recording the entire process of how Hadavy charged into the Black Star Army headquarters and was stopped by the Black Star Guards under Black Star.

Boom boom boom!

Both of them were Calamity Grade Supers, and the impact of their battle was not small. Hila trapped Hadavy in the center and unleashed her death energy on him.

Hadavy's body hardening Esper Ability had been developed to a perverse level. Despite that, plenty of scars were still left behind on his body. It was not that he did not have the ability to escape, but he naturally would not escape since he was there to meet Han Xiao.

The dense, red waterfall of death energy knocked Hadavy out of the sky, and he crashed onto the alloy ground.

Boom!

Hadavy hurriedly got up and avoided Hila's follow-up attack while looking back at Hila with a strange gaze. Hila's attack would not threaten his life but made him seem extremely pathetic. Her strength had truly shocked him.

The Black Star Army had a few Calamity Grade officers. In the past, Lagi was the only one who could give Hadavy some pressure, so Hila was the second.

Black Star has more and more experts under him, Hadavy thought to himself.

What a powerful body. Hila frowned.

Death energy then surrounded her body as though she was on fire.

Hadavy's expression turned solemn, and he got into a defensive position. His muscles then bulged up like steel.

The army members watching the battle by the side also began backing off. They knew that the following attack would create a large shockwave, and they might be injured if they were to close.

Just as Hila was about to launch her attack, a deep voice sounded from behind the crowd.

"Hila, that's enough."

Everyone looked over and saw Han Xiao floating over slowly with an immense pressure bearing down on everyone present. The entire place fell silent, and even a falling needle could have been heard.

Everyone's gaze was locked on Han Xiao.

Upon hearing those words, Hila snorted coldly and retracted her death energy.

The crowd then opened a path, and Han Xiao walked in front of Hadavy. "You want to see me?"

In truth, Han Xiao had arrived a long time ago and allowed both Hila and Hadavy to fight for a short while before stopping them.

Just as Sylvia had suspected, since he had set up the Black Star Guards, he had to help Hila build up her prestige in the Star Field. Hadavy was a classic meat shield, and his attacking strength was low. With Hila's current strength, she would be able to fight Hadavy for some time without losing, and this was the best chance to build up her prestige.

The galactic reporters by the side all grew excited. Ever since the rumors began to spread in the outside world, this was the first time that Black Star had appeared in public. Thus, all their attention was placed on him.

"You finally came out!" Hadavy's eyes lit up. This was the result that he wanted to see. "Do you still remember me?"

"How can I forget you?" Han Xiao said with a tinge of interest. "Aren't you a member of Bloodshed Land? Are you coming to my headquarters to provoke me?"

"I have already left Bloodshed Land, and I am here to represent myself only," Hadavy explained.

"Oh... then what do you want?"

“I wish to issue you a challenge!” Hadavy suddenly said loudly. “I am willing to use myself as the stakes for this battle!”

Han Xiao was stunned for a moment, and doubt could be seen in his eyes.

“What exactly do you want?”

“If I lose, I will join the Black Star Army and fight for you like I once fought for Bloodshed Land. If I win...” Hadavy paused for a moment. “If I win, I want you to be my subordinate.”

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Upon hearing that, Han Xiao could not help but laugh in his heart. He had already seen through Hadavy’s true thoughts.

This fellow has probably come here because I became a Beyond Grade A Super. For him to insist on challenging me even after knowing that I have become a Beyond Grade A Super, he probably has two motives. First, he wants to spar with a Beyond Grade A Super and thinks that I won’t kill him on account of the fact that we are old opponents. Second, he wants to join me after losing to me.

Hadavy had always wanted to become a Beyond Grade A Super, and his heart was becoming itchy after witnessing Han Xiao becoming a Beyond Grade A. Thus, Hadavy wanted to join Han Xiao so that he could seek help from him. However, although Hadavy was tempted by such a thought, he was not willing to directly join the Black Star Army because of his pride. He did not want to lower his head before his old opponent directly and thus chose to put on a show and use the excuse of losing the battle to join the Black Star Army.

Defeat was not humiliating to Hadavy, but lowering his head was.

After thinking for a moment, Han Xiao nodded and agreed without exposing Hadavy.

When they were opponents, Hadavy was truly annoying and was a sh*t stirrer. However, if this meat shield wanted to join him, he would be a rare treasure in Han Xiao’s eyes. After all, there were very few Beyond Grade A seeds.

Putting on a show to gain a powerful fighter—such a deal was very much worth it.

Furthermore, Han Xiao felt that he could make use of this chance to display his strength to the Star Field. The influence of him becoming a Beyond Grade A could only be utilized if he admitted it personally.

He had already constructed a new army, and he was able to display the strength of a Beyond Grade A. Furthermore, the Tyrant would not allow him to drag things on for too long.

Han Xiao was extremely clear about the thoughts of his enemy. If he continued dragging on as such, Klent would then announce to the world that he did not dare to reveal his strength because he was afraid of Heber. They would then be able to suppress his influence while boosting the Tyrant’s prestige.

He had stayed silent for half a month already, and Klent was already showing signs of doing so. He decided to avoid such a situation before Klent took action.

Han Xiao shook off all these thoughts and looked at Hadavy. "Come."

Boom!

Hadavy stomped on the alloy ground and shot toward Han Xiao's chest like a cannon.

The muscles on his arms bulged up, and an explosive strength burst forth.

However, Hadavy's fist was stopped ten centimeters before Han Xiao, and the immense strength of the attack generated a powerful gust of wind. However, Han Xiao did not even blink.

At this moment, his arm, which was covered in the Battle Tiger suit, grabbed onto Hadavy's throat. Hadavy's powerful attack could not even shake Han Xiao's arm, and Hadavy was not able to move forward even an inch after being grabbed by Han Xiao's arm.

Advancing to Beyond Grade A and the boost from the Evolution Cube had largely increased Han Xiao's attributes and allowed him to completely suppress a Calamity Grade Super. Even Hadavy, who was famous for his body's strength, was not an opponent for Han Xiao.

"This..." Hadavy's eyes narrowed.

Before he could even react, the mechanical suit on Han Xiao's arm began spinning around rapidly and sent a powerful shockwave into Hadavy's body through his arm.

The special sound wave attack flowed through Hadavy's skin and echoed in his flesh and bones. Hadavy heard a ringing sound as though all the noise in the world had been pumped into his ears.

Tiger Roar!

With the target's body as a medium, the special shockwave attack would pass through all forms of armor and echo within the target's body. If this attack was used in a vacuum, it would only be effective in close-range battle. This was an attack that Han Xiao had created by mimicking Stephanie's Esper Ability.

"Pu!" Hadavy spat out a mouthful of blood. Because it was not True Damage, he was not immune to it.

Following which, Han Xiao slammed him into the ground.

Bang!

A crater was created, and Hadavy was stuck in the crater.

Not waiting for him to get up, Han Xiao placed his hands together, and his body lit up with brilliant bolts of electricity. The Mechanical Force that he gave out then combined with the alloy ground.

Boom!

The next moment, the alloy ground sprang into action, and the alloy ground transformed into a whirlpool to trap Hadavy in the center. The alloy ground then began spinning upward and formed a small spinning mountain.

Hadavy could not move an inch.

“Pa!” Han Xiao then clapped his hands, and two cannons were revealed behind him. The barrels of the cannons were aimed straight at Hadavy. If Han Xiao shot at Hadavy, who was currently in the air, his cannon would shoot toward outer space and would not destroy the headquarters.

The barrels of the cannons lit up, and the frightening energy being gathered made everyone’s hair stand on end.

“My destructive force isn’t the same as before,” Han Xiao said slowly. “You may become paralyzed if these two cannons hit you. Admit defeat.”

Hadavy gulped in horror, and his heart was shaken.

He had challenged Han Xiao because he wanted to verify the difference between the Beyond Grade A Black Star and the Black Star from before. In the end, he realized that the gap between them had widened to the point where he did not have the ability to make Han Xiao get serious.

Was this the difference in a Beyond Grade A? Hadavy felt his heart burning.

“I... admit defeat.” Hadavy took a deep breath and admitted his loss.

Han Xiao had already expected this and said, “Hila, bring him down.”

Clank!

The alloy mountain then collapsed. and Hadavy fell to the ground. Hila immediately walked forward and slapped a pair of electromagnetic handcuffs on his wrists. The handcuffs were not very useful and were only for show. Hadavy was then led into the headquarters of the Black Star Army.

Han Xiao then turned around and looked at the numerous spaceships in the surrounding area. With a simple shake of his head, he connected to the quantum network.

The reporters on the spaceship were currently recording the scene before them and writing about how Han Xiao had easily taken care of Hadavy. All of a sudden, Han Xiao’s face appeared on every screen in the spaceships, and all the reporters were startled.

Following which, Han Xiao’s voice sounded on the screen.

“I know that all of you have been lingering in the vicinity to hear me admit the recent rumors. Yes, I am already a Beyond Grade A. Please help me spread the news around the entire Star Field!”

After saying what he wanted, Han Xiao’s face disappeared from the screen, and the screens returned to normal.

The jaws of the reporters dropped, and they finally snapped back to reality. They immediately jumped to the window of the spaceship and looked toward the Black Star Army satellite, only to see Han Xiao turn around and walk back into the headquarters.

“He admitted it! Black Star admitted it personally!”

All the reporters were overjoyed. After camping for such a long time, they had finally gotten some exciting news.

An official announcement was completely different from rumors being spread around. Rumors were like sparks to ignite the flames of curiosity in the Star Field, but Han Xiao's admission was like pouring hot oil on top of the fire!

The influence of a new Beyond Grade A would reach the peak in a single step!

Chapter 769 Huge Sensation!

Hadavy was led to a room by Hila and tied to a chair. Hila stood with her arms folded by the side, staring coldly at him.

"Wait here. Black Star will arrive in a while."

Hadavy did not struggle as well. After quietly sitting for a while, he seemed to feel that the atmosphere was a little awkward. He looked at Hila and asked, "What's your Esper ability? I've been roaming around the Shattered Star Ring for so many years, yet I haven't heard of you. Someone like you would not be able to mask the news. Which civilization are you from?"

Hila did not even bother to reply, keeping a passive expression.

Seeing that she had no interest, Hadavy could only cough dryly. "Seems like you don't like to converse."

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This time, the door opened, and Han Xiao walked in, smiling. "She's from my hometown; we're both from Planet Aquamarine. Because she was learning under Ames, she only appeared recently to help me with my matters."

"The Dragon Emperor's disciple?" Hadavy was stunned, and the look he shot toward Hila changed, filled with admiration and envy.

Planet Aquamarine, a surface civilization, could actually give rise to people like Hila and Black Star. This intrigued Hadavy.

Ka-la!

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Moving his hand, Han Xiao freed Hadavy from the restraints. He suddenly had a thought, saying, "Ok, you may leave now."

Hadavy was given another shock, and his mouth gaped open as he said, "You're letting me go?"

"That's right." Han Xiao smiled. "No matter what, we've fought so many times, and I respect your abilities. This time, I'm letting you go. The bet can be nulled."

"No no no..." Hadavy immediately stammered. "I'm a man who keeps his word. Since I've lost, I must accept my promise and work for you."

"Well, such a strong Super like you would not agree to simply being someone's subordinate in such a manner," Han Xiao replied, half-seriously and half-jokingly. "I might have reached the Beyond Grade A level, but to peak-level Calamity Grades such as you, I have my respect and will not force you."

Hadavy was so anxious his face turned red. He had initially thought that his plan would be successful and that he could succeed in his gamble and join under Black Star's flag. He did not expect Black Star to actually reject him, with the reason so moving that even he could not reply to that.

"I... you..." Hadavy was speechless, unable to voice his thoughts.

Should he just say that he wanted to serve Black Star? Hadavy felt that this was a little shameful, and he could not bring himself to do it. However, if he just walked away, that would defeat his purpose of going there. In that instant, he fell into a dilemma, not knowing what to do.

Seeing this situation, Han Xiao smiled. "I won't mess with you any further. If you wish to join the Black Star Army, I'll welcome you with open arms. If you are trying to use such tricks to fool me, we can stop the discussion."

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Hadavy's face turned red. "You already knew?"

Upon having his thoughts seen through, he was so embarrassed that he wished to find a hole to hide in.

For Hila, who was standing by the corner with a passive expression, the corners of her mouth curled up into a barely discernible smile.

Han Xiao raised an eyebrow, leisurely saying, "In that case, I'll formally extend an invitation to you. Hadavy, my legion requires your strength. Are you willing to come under my banner?"

Hadavy found it hard to open his mouth at this time. His mouth seemed to be glued shut, and he applied all his Grade A level strength just to unlock his jaw.

"I... I am willing..."

After saying those three words, Hadavy felt as though his entire body had gone soft. The feeling was as though he had just finished ten consecutive gladiator matches.

"Good." Han Xiao nodded with a smile. "On behalf of my army, I welcome you."

Seeing that Han Xiao was no longer fooling around with him, Hadavy finally breathed a sigh of relief, putting down the embarrassment in his heart. "What role do you require me to take?"

Han Xiao thought about it before pointing to Hila. "You can join the Black Star Guards, which is under Hila."

With Hadavy having a well-known reputation, him joining the Black Star Guards would also increase their renown.

"Black Star Guards?" Hadavy stroked his chin before replying, "That's fine, but I have a request. I hope that you will be able to impart some of your experience in achieving Beyond Grade A to me..."

Han Xiao nodded before shaking his head. "Every Beyond Grade A has a different method for their promotion, and everyone has their own path. I'm unable to pass down my experience to you, but what I can do is spar with you, allowing you to feel the difference between your level and that of a Beyond Grade A to give you more inspiration."

“This...” Hadavy shook his head helplessly. “That works as well.”

While this was a little different from his expectations, being able to spar with a Beyond Grade A was also what he wanted. He originally loved to squeeze his potential out through battles.

The average person could not give him much pressure, but facing Black Star would remind him of his fear of the beasts when he was young and weak. This sort of fear would be a catalyst for growth.

Han Xiao waved his hand, allowing Hila to take Hadavy to meet his new colleagues.

He now had a total of five guards, of which Hadavy, Feidin, and Hila were the strongest, all high-level Calamity Grades. The other two were Marian and a Pugilist named Deluno. Both of their combat capabilities were average, not extraordinary in the Calamity Grade, but it was good enough to be a mini-boss. In this manner, all his guards were actually elites.

After dealing with Hadavy, Han Xiao called Sylvia over to talk about the expansion of the Black Star Army.

Since he had personally announced the matter of reaching Beyond Grade A, he would have to start making some big moves, increasing his influence, and making more allies in the Star Field. His plan was to make the Black Star Army reach the level of a true Beyond Grade A force.

But before that, there was still another matter he needed to address.

“Sylvia, help me prepare a fleet. I’m going out.”

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“Noted. Where are you going, Teacher?”

Han Xiao paused, his tone strange.

“Floating Dragon.”

...

The countless interstellar news outlets released the article about Han Xiao personally acknowledging that he had broken into the Beyond Grade A class. At its peak, ninety-five percent of the entire news channels in the Shattered Star Ring were occupied by news about this matter, setting off a new storm of public opinion.

Most of the official news sources had acknowledged this matter, making it a sure bet. During this period, almost all the media outlets in Shattered Star Ring were covering the topic. With so many media channels, this was far larger than compared to the rumor and word-of-mouth influence that had spread earlier. As long as the citizens had internet, there was no one that would not have heard of Han Xiao’s name!

Similarly, this sensational news had also been shared by the media of other Star Fields, and their organizations had also learned that the Shattered Star Ring had given birth to yet another Beyond Grade A Super!

The player forums almost detonated from this situation. Although Han Xiao's name often dominated the forums, it was because of the players' discussion. That day, even the players from other Star Fields could also see their news channels commenting on Han Xiao's name!

Those belonging to other Star Fields were shocked. At Version 3.0, players had yet to cross between Star Fields. In their eyes, each Star Field was currently an independent server. Now, the NPC character from the Shattered Star Ring had actually 'broken' this barrier due to his fame!

Since the previous versions, Han Xiao had constantly established his main storyline character position in the Shattered Star Ring. The players from the other Star Fields also knew of his name. This wave of public opinion had generated a strong interest within the player base. Not only was Han Xiao filling up the screen in the Shattered Star Ring news channel, his name was also within the forum channels of the other Star Fields. On all channels, he was within the top three topics.

The official news channels also had their own rules, and the various great organizations of the Shattered Star Ring responded appropriately.

...

The Purple Crystal Civilization was extremely happy now.

They had seen the potential revealed by him more than seven years ago and decided to hedge their bets on him. Finally, Black Star had stepped into the realm of the Beyond Grade A, and the Purple Crystal Civilization now had a Beyond Grade A Super just like Klent. Within the seven Star Cluster level civilizations in the Shattered Star Ring, only two of them had such powerful allies.

Their bet had truly paid off!

Furthermore, Black Star had only spent around twenty years to reach the Beyond Grade A rank, with his total age not even being close to fifty yet. With the lifespan of a Beyond Grade A Super, he was considered an infant, and this spoke volumes of his potential.

The moment Han Xiao admitted his promotion in person, the Purple Crystal Civilization had adopted a variety of measures such as adding a huge investment to the Black Star Army as well as putting out more favorable policies and resource conditions for them. They were committed to building a more stable relationship with Han Xiao as an alliance.

At the same time, the Purple Crystal Civilization also issued announcements to the entire Star Field through their media channels.

"In the name of the Civilization, we congratulate Black Star for reaching the Beyond Grade A rank!"

This sort of behavior expressed their attitude to the entire Star Field and conveyed a message that their relationship was extremely stable. Those outside parties who wanted a share of the pie should just save their energy and get lost.

Godora was unwilling to be left behind and followed suit by having Serbia The Fifth coming out to explain Han Xiao's role in saving Godora, as well as emphasizing that he was the recipient of the Golden Gal Badge. Finally, he represented all Godorans in congratulating Han Xiao on his advancement before

revealing that he was planning to add a celebratory festival named Black Star Day to thank Han Xiao for all that he had done for them.

Were it any other civilization that had done this, it would have sounded very much like boot-licking. However, Godora was different, as their ties with Han Xiao ran extremely deeply. Be it the eradication of DarkStar or the Discrimination Transformation Movement, it had a huge impact for their entire civilization. Thus, a festival to thank Han Xiao was nothing extraordinary.

Purple Crystal and Godora quickly took their stand, and to jump on the bandwagon, hundreds of civilizations began to congratulate Han Xiao. This was as though they were attempting to form a trend. Most of these galaxy-level civilizations were half-allies that had chosen the Black Star Army, and they had allowed the army to set up bases on their planets. At this moment, they scrambled to speak up, as though afraid that others would not know they were in an alliance with Black Star.

The behavior of these civilizations was actually understandable. Purple Crystal was the boss of this Star Cluster and thus got the ball rolling. The other civilizations jumped on the bandwagon in order to have a good relationship with this Beyond Grade A faction, but this crazy chain left those on the sidelines speechless and shocked.

The entire Colton Star Cluster was basically standing behind Black Star, shouting and congratulating him. An entire Star Cluster was celebrating for one man!

In such a situation, those on the sidelines could not even reply due to their shock.

The reputation of Black Star in the Star Cluster was so shocking!

Even when the other Beyond Grade As had advanced, they did not receive such a resounding celebration!

At this moment, the entire Star Field remembered the name Black Star. Just like the other four, he turned into an icon of the Shattered Star Ring in everyone's minds, the Fifth Beyond Grade A Seat!

However, it was at this juncture that unexpected events started to appear, allowing the public opinion to skyrocket to unprecedented levels.

The Tyrant Heber and Star Pupil Psyker both openly made a declaration of battle toward Black Star!

Heber's reason was because of the secret war. Since the Purple Crystal also possessed a Beyond Grade A now, he would personally act. Because both Beyond Grade As were fighting for different sides, there was no problem with that.

However, Psyker's reasoning caused a huge outburst.

He openly admitted the existence of the Evolution Cube, announced that Black Star had taken the Evolution Cube from his hands, and requested for Black Star to return it!

The Evolution Cube is now in Black Star's hands? Two elder Beyond Grade As are challenging a newborn Beyond Grade A?

Those two pieces of news caused a stir.

The entire Star Field burst into an uproar!

The Beyond Grade As... were going to fight openly?

How long had it been since that last happened!

...

Just as the major organizations and those on the sidelines were shocked at all the ongoing news, Han Xiao had taken his spaceship and arrived on Floating Dragon Island.

Chapter 770 Independence

A large fleet appeared not too far away from Floating Dragon Island with Han Xiao's spaceship being at the very front.

Aurora was seated in the pilot's seat with Han Xiao standing behind her with his arms crossed.

Floating Dragon now had three different islands and a second field team in charge of guarding Floating Dragon. Looking out at the scenery, Han Xiao could not help but lament to himself.

"I haven't been back for quite some time, and the changes are truly great. So many years have gone by in just a blink of an eye. I still remember the first time I came to Floating Dragon..."

Du! Du!

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Vilna's face appeared on his communicator, and she said, "Your Excellency Black Star, Her Excellency Dragon Emperor is waiting for you."

It seems like she knew that I would come and meet her... Han Xiao nodded.

The second field team opened a path and allowed the Black Star Army fleet to land on Floating Dragon Island.

"Black Star Guards follow me. The others remain here and await my orders," Han Xiao instructed and led Hila and the others onto Floating Dragon.

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On the dock, Jenny and the other officers were already waiting for him.

"Your Excellency Black Star."

The various officers saluted him.

Although they had once been colleagues with Han Xiao, Han Xiao was now a Beyond Grade A Super, and his status in the galaxy far exceeded theirs. He was a figure who stood at the same level as the Dragon Emperor, and they could only look up to him.

Even Jenny, who had a terrible relationship with Han Xiao, also had her head lowered with a respectful appearance.

Aesop stepped out from the crowd and said with a complicated expression, "I knew that you would return. This day had to come eventually."

Han Xiao then looked around at the faces of his colleagues before looking back at Aesop. Shaking his head, he said, "Didn't you already start making preparations?"

"I just didn't think that it would be so sudden..." Aesop let out a sigh before turning around to lead the way. "Follow me. Ames is already waiting for you."

Han Xiao followed behind Aesop and entered the palace, only to see Ames seated on top of a floating throne with a calm expression on her face.

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"You're here. Black Star, I have been waiting for you," Ames said as though she had already expected his arrival.

Han Xiao stood a few meters away, and Aesop's group walked behind Ames. At this moment, there seemed to be an invisible barrier separating the two groups.

Neither of them spoke immediately; they looked at each other silently instead. The Black Star and Floating Dragon officers who were by the side all could not help but gulp as their hearts tensed up.

The officers of both sides were aware of Han Xiao's intentions and could not help but feel nervous upon seeing the tense atmosphere. They were afraid that the two Beyond Grade A Supers would start fighting because of some disagreement.

The new member of the Black Star Guards, Hadavy, was probably the only exception. He was currently sizing Ames up carefully, looking as though he was eager to test her strength.

After a silent standoff of over a minute, Ames shifted her gaze toward Aurora and Hila, who were beside Han Xiao, and asked, "How have both of you been over the past few months?"

Aurora did not dare face Ames' gaze at this moment and lowered her head with guilt.

"Fine," Hila replied.

Ames showed care and concern for her two disciples but ignored Han Xiao completely. Han Xiao was not too bothered by this and watched silently by the side.

The teacher and disciples chatted for a while before Ames changed the topic. "Are you two going to stand on his side?"

Hila and Aurora's expressions changed slightly, and everyone felt their hearts tightened up slightly.

Before waiting for them to reply, Han Xiao waved to his Black Star Guards and said, "Hila, leave with them. Let me talk to Ames alone."

Hila heaved a sigh of relief. She was not afraid of facing powerful enemies, but she did not wish to be sandwiched between her teacher of ten years and Han Xiao.

Ames tacitly approved of the departure of the Black Star Guards, and upon seeing this, Aesop had no choice but to take the officers of Floating Dragon away as well.

Aesop felt that it was extremely normal for Black Star to seek independence. If he was Ames, he would not stop Black Star but provide his support instead. However, Ames was not like him and tended to act in a willful manner. Furthermore, Black Star was the subordinate who she placed the greatest importance on, and Aesop was worried that Ames' willfulness would ruin matters.

Only Han Xiao and Ames were left behind in the main hall. Ames controlled her floating throne to land, and she walked forward to face Han Xiao with a complicated look in her eyes.

"When I first saw you, I never imagined that you will be standing at the same height as me one day."

Upon hearing that, the scene of how he met Ames floated up in Han Xiao's mind.

Ames had been high above at that time, capable of controlling his life and death with a single thought. In comparison, he had been a small grain of sand in her eyes. Ten or so years later, he was now able to stand face to face with her as equals.

"Anything is possible in this world," Han Xiao replied.

Ames smiled and said, "I know this feeling. A long time ago, I never imagined that I would become a Beyond Grade A Super either."

Han Xiao stroked his chin and did not say a word.

Pausing for a moment, Ames then asked, "Why are you here today?"

"There are three things."

"Three things?" Ames raised her brows. "What's the first?"

Han Xiao took out the Evolution Cube and said, "This treasure is in my hands. I am prepared to allow you and all the officers of Floating Dragon to enjoy the Evolution Cube."

Ames was a little surprised but did not reply immediately. She asked instead, "What's the second matter."

"I request to leave Floating Dragon and allow the Black Star Army to gain independence," Han Xiao said without the slightest bit of awkwardness.

"Humph, this is probably your true motive, right?"

Ames let out a soft sigh but wasn't angry. She was already mentally prepared for this day to arrive but still felt a tinge of discomfort when Han Xiao said it. She then said expressionlessly, "I have something to ask you."

"What is it?"

"Were you planning to leave me from the first day you joined Floating Dragon?"

Ames' gaze was locked firmly on Han Xiao. Ever since she viewed the Black Star Army headquarters a few years ago, she had known that she was not suitable to be Han Xiao's leader. She just wanted to be certain of Han Xiao's thoughts.

"Yes," Han Xiao replied honestly. From the very beginning, he had treated Floating Dragon as a jumping board. Even if saying so would make Ames angry, he did not intend to lie.

"I thought so." Ames shook her head, and a tinge of sadness could be seen in her eyes. "I am not a leader worth following for someone like you."

She had not felt this during the initial development of the Black Star Army, but as the prestige of the Black Star Army overshadowed Floating Dragon, she had understood that a legendary character like Han Xiao was not someone she could keep.

Ames did not hesitate in the slightest and did not bother trying to keep Han Xiao. She was not that weak and said with a resolute voice, "Alright. I understand. From today onward, Floating Dragon is Floating Dragon and the Black Star Army is the Black Star Army. You are no longer my subordinate."

A notification immediately popped up on his interface indicating that he left the Floating Dragon faction.

Han Xiao let out a deep breath.

From this moment on, the Black Star Army was no longer a subordinate of Floating Dragon and was now an independent organization.

"What is the third matter?" Ames asked expressionlessly.

"I hope that the Black Star Army can form an alliance with Floating Dragon," Han Xiao said. "I hope that you will fight alongside me against Heber and Psyker."

Upon hearing that, Ames' face immediately became a little strange. She had already heard about the Beyond Grade A battle that shook the Shattered Star Ring. She was puzzled about Han Xiao's actions.

"Since you want my help, why did you choose independence? You know that I would definitely help you if you chose to remain in Floating Dragon."

Han Xiao smiled and said with a carefree tone, "I know. That's why I gave you a chance to choose."

Ames was stunned for a moment and immediately understood what Han Xiao meant.

The way she saw it, as long as Han Xiao chose to remain in Floating Dragon, he could tie Floating Dragon to him and ensure that she would help him to deal with his enemies for sure. However, Han Xiao did not choose to make use of his identity as a Floating Dragon officer but chose to request help after leaving Floating Dragon.

This meant that Han Xiao did not want to make use of her. If not, he could choose to borrow Floating Dragon's strength to deal with Heber and Psyker before gaining independence. It would be akin to making full use of her before leaving.

In truth, Ames had also considered such a possibility before their meeting. Even Ames herself did not know if she would have rejected Han Xiao if he had chosen such a route. The development of the situation was truly out of her expectations.

“Are you not afraid that I will reject you?” Ames suppressed the surprise in her heart and spoke calmly. “Your life will be in danger if you want to fight both of them alone. Aren’t you afraid that you won’t be able to pass this tribulation?”

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Han Xiao smiled and said, “I believe that you won’t reject me.”

Ames’ face then darkened, and she said coldly, “You are no longer my subordinate, and I haven’t accepted your alliance. Do you really think that I care a lot about you, or do you think that you have some chips in your hands that I won’t be able to reject? Do you want to make use of the Evolution Cube to persuade me? And go back on your word if I don’t agree?”

“My promise is valid regardless of whether you form an alliance with me.” Han Xiao shook his head. “That was something I brought up before leaving Floating Dragon. I am providing that benefit to you as an officer of Floating Dragon and do not plan to make use of it as a bargaining chip. You can treat it as my compensation to thank Floating Dragon for taking care of me.”

Ames had a strange look in her eyes, and she sized Han Xiao up as though she did not recognize him. “You are not someone like that in my mind.”

The way she saw it, the sequence of Han Xiao’s requests was completely wrong. He chose to leave Floating Dragon before seeking help and did not wish to use the Evolution Cube as a bargaining chip for their alliance but compensation toward Floating Dragon.

This was akin to surrendering his advantage and leaving the decision in her hands.

“Why?” Ames asked. Han Xiao’s current actions had overturned her impression of him.

Han Xiao smiled. “I just feel that there isn’t a need for there to have so much scheming between us.”

Ames’ expression froze in place, and her breathing seemed to have stopped for a second.

She then looked at Han Xiao deeply and took two steps back. “I don’t know if the words you have said are true or false, but I can at least see some sincerity.”

Han Xiao’s lips curled up slightly, and he said, “It seems like we have come to an agreement.”

“I agree to your alliance.” Ames’ eyes shone before she slowly said, “Besides, I have long wanted to have a fight with Heber. Although you are a new Beyond Grade A Super, you definitely won’t drag me down with your strength.”

“Hahaha, you are still the Ames that I know!” Han Xiao raised out his hand to shake Ames’ hand. “Alliance mate, please take care of me in the future.”

Ames looked at Han Xiao’s hand, which was floating in midair, and snorted.

“Humph, you used to call me Your Excellency Dragon Emperor but call me alliance mate now.”

After saying that, she raised out her hand as well.

Both of them shook hands.

Their alliance was set up from this moment on.

After shaking hands, they let go, and Han Xiao had a strange look on his face.

When they were shaking hands, Ames had squeezed hard as though she was throwing a tantrum. However, Han Xiao's physical defense was too high, and he did not feel much.

Han Xiao shook his head and looked at the door of the palace. "Still eavesdropping? All of you, come in."

Hila, Aesop, and the others walked out from behind the door with embarrassed looks on their faces.

They had all worried that Ames and Han Xiao would fall out with each other and did not go too far away. They had all been eavesdropping outside the door and were a little embarrassed since they had been caught. In actual fact, all of their actions could not possibly escape from the senses of a Beyond Grade A. It was just that Han Xiao and Ames could not be bothered with them.

Upon seeing the both of them resolving matters harmoniously, the atmosphere in the place became relaxed, and everyone heaved a sigh of relief.

Although the Black Star Army had left Floating Dragon, both parties had formed an alliance, and they were still allies. The barrier between both parties disappeared immediately, especially since the officers of both parties had a good relationship in the first place.

Aesop was extremely relieved that Ames did not lose control of her emotions, and the outcome was much better than what he had expected. For two Beyond Grade A organizations to form an alliance, they would be able to gain a huge advantage in the Shattered Star Ring, and it was extremely beneficial to both parties.

My prediction back then wasn't wrong. Ames will develop better with Black Star beside her, Aesop thought to himself. Back then, he had felt that Black Star would become the Dragon Emperor's right-hand man to support her to the next level. Although his guess was not wrong, he had gotten a small detail wrong. Black Star would not be the Dragon Emperor's right-hand man but an equal to the Dragon Emperor.

"Alright, since you are willing to work together with me, we have to decide how we should deal with Heber and Psyker," Han Xiao said.

"What are you prepared to do?" Ames said with excitement.

"It has been some time since they issued a challenge to me, but I have yet to give them a reply. It is time for me to give them a reply. Since they want to create trouble, we should muddy the waters further. I will issue a joint response with you and shake the Shattered Star Ring even more." Han Xiao's eyes gleamed.

He could also make use of this opportunity to announce the independence of the Black Star Army and their alliance with Floating Dragon.

Han Xiao was sure that this would increase his influence to the next level!

"I thought that you'd ask me to keep this matter a secret and give them a good surprise," Ames replied.

"We won't be able to hide it from them, and there isn't a need to do so. Since they challenged us openly, we can also reply to them openly," Han Xiao said. "Since they want to be high profile, we shall accompany them in being high profile!"

Ames revealed a look of interest. "It sounds very fun."

As Hadavy and the others heard that, they immediately grew excited and were agitated to the point they had goosebumps. The Shattered Star Ring had five Beyond Grade A Supers, and four of them were involved in this battle. Only the Magus was left out, and he would probably run over to join the fun. If that was the case, this battle would involve all the Beyond Grade A Supers in the Shattered Star Ring!

This was a one in a hundred years event, and it would definitely go down in the annals of history.

Just thinking of the sight of the five Beyond Grade A appearing together made Hadavy's blood boil.

At this moment, Han Xiao suddenly said, "Before that, I have to fulfil my promise."

After saying that, he took out the Evolution Cube and looked at Ames.

"Do I need to make any preparations?" Ames asked.

"You don't need to."

"Alright." Ames nodded.

Although she did not chase after strength, she was extremely curious about the Evolution Cube.

Opening the Evolution Cube, a wave of black particles surrounded Ames, and the gene evolution started.

Han Xiao looked at the other officers of Floating Dragon, and after seeing them nod, he controlled another new wave of black colored energy to evolve their genes.

Only Aesop waved his hands.

"Old man, don't you want to use the Evolution Cube?" Han Xiao asked with doubt.

"Don't need to worry about me." Aesop waved his hands. "I used it a few hundred years ago when this item was still in the ruins. If not for the fact that it was too large and I was too lazy to find someone to shift it away, it would have been mine."

Han Xiao truly did not know what to say.

...

The gene evolution continued for quite some time, and all the officers of Floating Dragon completed their evolution. Their strength experienced varying degrees of improvements, and they all had looks of joy on their faces. Only Ames was still being surrounded by the black particles.

After a few hours, Ames broke out of the 'cocoon' and experienced a huge change.

All the others had gone down to rest, and Han Xiao was the only one left in the hall. He was currently seated on Ames' throne and scrolling through the forums for entertainment. Upon seeing Ames exit, he walked forward to Ames with a look of curiosity.

"How do you feel?"

Ames did not reply, and her brows were furrowed as though she was trying to feel something. Her figure then disappeared suddenly.

Han Xiao was stunned for a moment and extended his senses to feel the undulations of space around him.

At his current level, apart from his five basic senses, he could detect other things such as radiation, energy waves, and so on.

After extending his senses, Han Xiao was stunned for a moment.

He could see Ames making circles around him in the Void Dimension.

"You are able to enter the Void Dimension?" Han Xiao asked with shock and entered the Void Dimension as well.

"It seems like this is my new ability," Ames said excitedly.

Floating Dragon Island was built on top of the skeleton of a Void Dragon, and Ames had consumed the Void Dragon Pith before. Thus, she had a trace of Void Genes in her, which was activated by the Evolution Cube.

Although they were not from the same Beyond Grade A race, they both had Void Genes, and a portion of their genes were similar.

After playing for a while, Ames left the Void Dimension and began testing her new strength.

"The effect of the Evolution Cube is truly amazing. The strength, range, and control of my Force Field have been increased, and my physique seems to have improved."

That is because your attributes have increased...

Han Xiao had some experience with this. Ames did not have an interface and could not see the changes in her body.